

DEPARTMENT OF
INTERIOR

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DRAWER 11

BIRTHPLACE CABIN

71.255.000 05026



Kentucky

Birthplace Cabin

Department of Interior

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

LINCOLN'S BIRTHPLACE WILL BE BROUGHT TO ST. LOUIS.

A FEATURE decidedly American at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition will be the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born and the log cabin in which Ulysses S. Grant spent his honeymoon. A concession for their exhibition has been agreed upon in the midway, and they will be shown, side by side, with other Lincoln and Grant relics from various parts of the union.

The Grant cabin now stands at Old Orchard, just outside the city limits of St. Louis. The Lincoln cabin still stands where it was erected, and where Abraham Lincoln spent the first seven years of his life. Its chimney is partly down. The exteriors of the logs are rotting. But its various owners have given it fair protection.

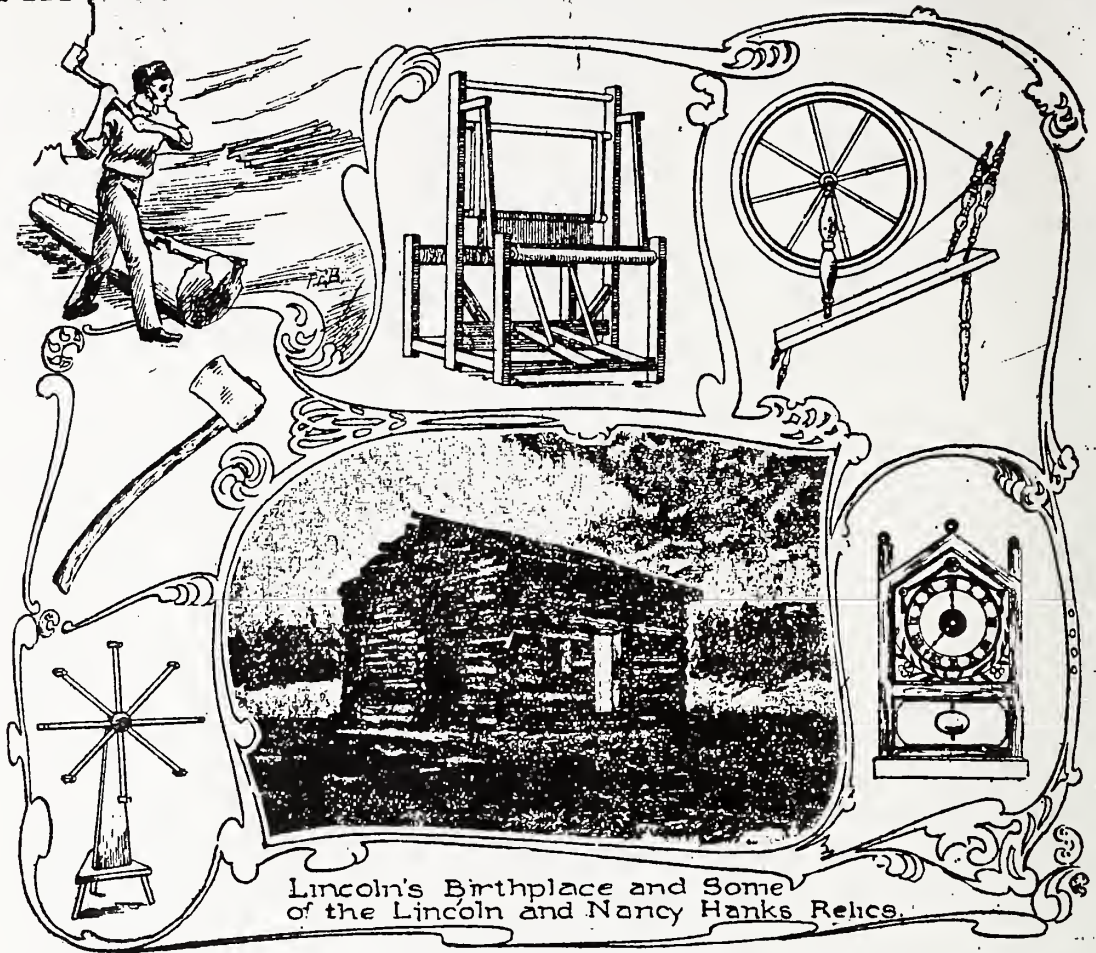
Both cottages are to be exhibited in a large building to be erected as soon as the site shall have been designated by the Exposition management.

By W. S. CAMPBELL, C. wner of
the Lincoln Cabin.

I BOUGHT the Lincoln cabin in October. Ever since I heard of the reproduction of Mount Vernon at Chicago, I have been thinking of exhibiting the original Lincoln cabin at the World's Fair in St. Louis. I am a native of Casey County, Ky., which almost adjoins Larue County, in which Lincoln was born. I found out who owned the cabin and I made an offer for it that was accepted.

The cabin has but one door and one window. The chimney, partly fallen down, is at one end on the outside. The outside of the logs is rotting, but the inside is sound. The land and the cabin came into the hands of the Neil family. James Neil inherited the land on which the cabin stands. He sold it to R. C. Woodrum over 25 years ago. Woodrum used it as a storeroom for lumber. It is about 14 by 15 feet in size. I got from Aasms County a couple of spinning wheels, a reel, a loom, a four-post chair and a clock that Nancy Harker Lincoln's mother let a Mrs. Dry have when the Lincolns moved to what is now Lincoln City, Ind. From a party in Illinois I have leased an ax used by Lincoln in making his reputation as a rail splitter.

I have some of the walnut rails Lincoln will be worked up into Lincoln souvenirs. my partner, B. East, saw Mr. Joy, and an
split and will have a pine tree now growing. Reading in the Sunday Post-Dispatch arrangement was entered into for a joint
ing on the far mat Lincoln City. These about Edward Joy's Grant cabin, I and exhibition.



Lincoln's Birthplace and Some of the Lincoln and Nancy Hanks Relics

1904?: Reference Expedition

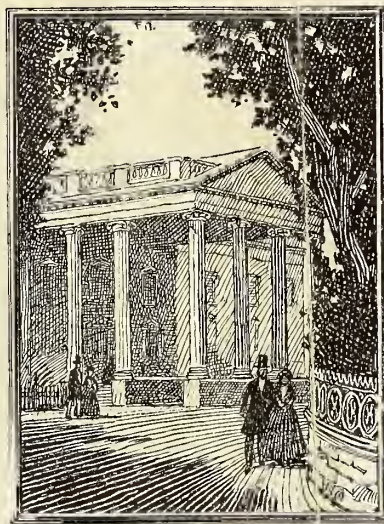
HERE

OVER · THE · LOG · CABIN · WHERE · ABRAHAM · LINCOLN · WAS
BORN · DESTINED · TO · PRESERVE · THE · NATION · AND · TO · FREE · T
SLAVE · A · GRATEFUL · PEOPLE · HAVE · DEDICATED · THIS · MEMOR
TO · UNITY · PEACE · AND · BROTHERHOOD · AMONG · THESE · STA

what he is about in the midst of the world's affairs; but his spirit got only its schooling there. It did not derive its character or its vision from the experiences which brought it to its full revelation. The test of every American must always be, not where he is, but what he is. That, also, is of the essence of democracy, and is the moral of which this place is most gravely expressive.

WE would like to think of men like LINCOLN and WASHINGTON as typical Americans, but no man can be typical who is so unusual as these great men were. It was typical of American life that it should produce such men with supreme indifference as to the manner in which it produced them, and as readily here in this hut as amidst the little circle of cultivated gentlemen to whom Virginia owed so much in leadership and example. And LINCOLN and WASHINGTON were typical Americans in the use they made of their genius. But there will be few such men at best, and we will not look into the mystery of how and why they come. We will only keep the door open for them always, and a hearty welcome—after we have recognized them.

I have read many biographies of LINCOLN; I have sought out with the greatest interest the many intimate stories that are told of him, the narratives of near-by friends, the sketches at close quarters, in which those who had the privilege of being associated with him have tried to depict for us the very man himself "in his habit as he lived"; but I have nowhere found a real intimate of LINCOLN'S. I nowhere get the impression in any narrative or reminiscence that the writer had in fact penetrated to the heart of his mystery, or that any man could penetrate to the heart of it. That brooding spirit had no real familiars. I get the impression that it never spoke out in complete self-revelation, and that it could not reveal itself completely to anyone. It was a very lonely spirit that looked out from underneath those shaggy brows and comprehended men without fully communicating with them, as if, in spite of all its genial



The White House in Lincoln's time

efforts at comradeship, it dwelt apart, saw its visions of duty where no man looked on. There is a very holy and very terrible isolation for the conscience of every man who seeks to read the destiny in affairs for others as well as for himself, for a nation as well as for individuals. That privacy no man can intrude upon. That lonely search of the spirit for the right perhaps no man can assist. This strange child of the cabin kept company with invisible things, was born into no intimacy but that of its own silently assembling and deploying thoughts.

I have come here to-day, not to utter a eulogy on LINCOLN: he stands in need of none, but to endeavor to interpret the meaning of this gift to the nation of the place of his birth and origin. Is not this an altar upon which we may forever keep alive the vestal fire of democracy as upon a shrine, at which some of the deepest and most sacred hopes of mankind may from age to age be rekindled? For these hopes must constantly be rekindled, and only those who live can rekindle them. The only stuff that can retain the life-giving heat is the stuff of living hearts. And the hopes of mankind cannot be kept alive by words merely, by constitutions and doctrines of right and codes of liberty. The object of democracy is to transmute these into the life and action of society, the self-denial and self-sacrifice of heroic men and women willing to make their lives an embodiment of right and service and enlightened purpose. The commands of democracy are as imperative as its privileges and opportunities are wide and generous. Its compulsion is upon us. It will be great and lift a great light for the guidance of the nations only if we are great and carry that light high for the guidance of our own feet. We are not worthy to stand here unless we ourselves be in deed and in truth real democrats and servants of mankind, ready to give our very lives for freedom and justice and spiritual exaltation of the great nation which shelters and nurtures us.



Hodgenville, Ky., Sept. 4, 1916

Powell Farm

February 1, 1929

Senator Frederick M. Sackett
1529 18th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Sackett:

Anyone who has ever lived at Hodgenville, Kentucky and has observed how little has been done toward beautifying the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln will be mightily interested in the bill which you have introduced in the Senate which provides for adequate financial support.

Possibly you have read my book on "Lincoln Parentage and Childhood" which sets forth the need of creating an honest background for Lincoln's birth and early childhood.

Now that we know the original boundaries of the Thomas Lincoln farm, it appears to me that before it is too late, the entire holding of 300 acres should be secured.

When I first traced through the title of this farm several years ago, I took the matter up with Mr. Jones who was then the Commissioner, but he apparently felt that I was an imposter.

I have never had, nor do I now have, any economic interests in seeing the boundaries of the original Thomas Lincoln farm preserved. I feel, however, that an honest man should have a memorial that honestly sets forth the environment of his parents.

If I can assist you in any way in this project which you are sponsoring, you may feel that I am at your service.

It would be of interest for me to know if Mr. Jones is still acting Commissioner at the Lincoln National Park.

Respectfully yours,

Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

LAW:VL

April 3, 1929

Mr. Frederick M. Sackett, Senator
410 Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Sackett:

My delay in acknowledging your letter of March 8 has not been due to a lack of interest in the Lincoln farm project which you have so successfully sponsored.

As a resident of Hodgenville for three years and Editor of the La Rue County Herald, I became vitally interested in the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln.

It has been the purpose of the Commission, I believe, to restore as near as possible the farm as it existed in the time of Thomas Lincoln.

The old Cumberland Trail which originally passed directly in front of the Spring, might easily be restored and marked by a rail fence on either side. Of course, it would not be used for traffic except where it came in contact with the present entrance near the spring.

The wooded section in back of the memorial is admirably adapted to a nesting reservation for wild birds which frequent that country.

Lincoln was a great lover of birds and some exceptional possibilities in this line are open as the restoration of the original country is anticipated.

After having spent many many days at the farm in company with the present custodian, many many suggestions have come to me which might be worked out with an adequate economic endowment.

You will receive, under separate cover, an autographed copy of my book, "Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood." I believe you will find that it bestories much

Mr. Frederick M. Sackett

-2-

April 3, 1929

of the tradition and material on Kentucky which Senator Beveridge has used in the arguments of his recent book.

Will you please feel that I am at your service and should be very glad to help create at Hodgenville the type of a reservation which I feel that you have in mind?

Very sincerely yours,

LAW:GM
L.A. Warren

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

FREDERIC M. SACKETT, KY., CHAIRMAN
FREDERICK HALE, ME. CLAUDE A. SWANSON, VA.
HENRY W. KEYES, N. H. THOMAS F. BAYARD, DEL.
GUY D. GOFF, W. VA. HARRY B. HAWES, MO.

R. P. GREEN, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
EXPENDITURES IN THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS

March 8, 1929

Mr. Louis A. Warren,
Director, Lincoln Historical Research Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Mr. Warren:

Your letter of February 1st, addressed to me at my home, was received in due time, but inasmuch as practically all my mail comes to the office in the Senate Office Building, your letter was overlooked until today.

I appreciate your interest in the Lincoln Farm, and am glad to get your ideas of what should be done at that place. As you know the Congress passed a bill providing for an appropriation of \$100,000 to rehabilitate the farm and build some roads, and enable the caretakers to keep the property in a better sanitary condition. I hope at some future time it may be possible to include the entire 300 acres in the Farm, but no part of the appropriation recently passed is to be used for acquiring a larger acreage.

I shall be glad to have you write me from time to time giving me any additional suggestions which may occur to you by which this shrine of American patriotism may be made more available and appreciated to a greater extent by our people.

If you should write me again, kindly address your letter to me at 410 Senate Office Building, and there will not be the delay in recognizing it as has been the case in this instance.

Sincerely Yours,

Frederic M. Sackett

FREDERIC M. SACKETT, KY., CHAIRMAN
FREDERICK HALE, ME. CLAUDE A. SWANSON, VA.
HENRY W. KEYES, N. H. THOMAS F. BAYARD, DEL.
GUY D. GOFF, W. VA. HARRY B. HAWES, MO.

R. P. GREEN, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
EXPENDITURES IN THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS

Washington, April 6, 1929

Mr. Louis A. Warren,
Director, Lincoln Historical
Research Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

My dear Mr. Warren:

Your very kind letter of April third was duly received and this morning I received your autographed copy of your book on Lincoln. I can tell it is very interesting and I shall look forward to leisure time when I may read it all.

Suggestions from one who has made such a close study of Lincoln's life and ancestry are most appreciated, I can assure you.

Sincerely yours,

Frederic M. Sackett

Frank Famer

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 3, 1929

Mr. Louis A. Smith, Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Hon. Maurice H. Thatcher
Congress
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Thatcher:

My attention has been called to the efforts which you have put forth to properly endow the Lincoln National Park at Hodgenville, Kentucky.

It has occurred to me that you might be interested in receiving our Lincoln Lore bulletin which this Foundation publishes.

It is sent gratis to about 600 admirers of Abraham Lincoln and I am glad to send you the back numbers, such as we have, and also place your name upon our mailing list.

I lived at Hodgenville, Kentucky for three years and am vitally interested in any improvements which are made at the Memorial.

Respectfully yours,

LAW:VL

Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
500 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 10, 1929.

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Mr. Warren:-

Thanks for your letter of July 3.

I am very glad to have the literature referred
to.

I am sending you a copy of the hearings on the
Thatcher bill authorizing the appropriation of \$100,000
and other necessary appropriations for the adequate im-
provement and care of the Lincoln Farm in LaRue County,
Kentucky. Also, I am enclosing copy of my speech in
the House upon the bill.

We expect to make the farm a very beautiful
place under the appropriations now authorized. It has
been sadly neglected.

Sincerely yours,

M H Thatcher

July 16, 1929

Mr. M. J. Thatcher
500 House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Thatcher:

Will you please accept my thanks for sending
the publication which release your remarks relative to
the appropriation for the Lincoln Memorial at Hodgenville.

I shall watch with interest the improvements
which are to be made.

Respectfully yours,

LAW:VL

Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

October 19, 1931

Mr. Morris H. Thatcher
500 House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Congressman Thatcher:

This is a rather tardy expression of my appreciation for the very generous assistance you offered me in making my connections at Louisville for Fort Wayne. Within ten minutes after I left you I was on a fast interurban train for Indianapolis which allowed me to reach Fort Wayne early the next morning.

I think the most gratifying part of my whole trip was the realization that someone in authority now has an interest in the Lincoln National Park at Hodgenville and I am sure that the rugged old farm will respond to the efforts which are being put forth by one who has a heart in the task.

If you feel that I can be of any assistance to you whatever in your work at Hodgenville, I should be very happy to offer my services.

Thanking both you and Mrs. Thatcher for the courtesies extended on Wednesday of last week, I am

Respectfully yours,

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:LH

Thatcher, M. H.
M. H. THATCHER
5TH DISTRICT KENTUCKY

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

500 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D. C.

BROWN HOTEL--Room 1502
Louisville, Kentucky,
Oct. 28, 1931

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Dr. Warren:-

Your letter of the 19th inst. addrest to me
at Washington, has been received by me at Louisville.

I am very glad to know that you have made your
connections so promptly and conveniently at Louisville. I
am also very glad to have your letter and note with apprecia-
tion its suggestions.

I shall feel free to call on you at any time
when I believe you may be of service concerning Lincoln Farm
matters.

What is the name of your book on Lincoln and
what is the price?

We are very glad, indeed, to have met you and
to have had the pleasure of your company and informative con-
versation on the way from Lincoln Farm to Louisville.

Mrs. Thatcher joins me in cordial regards.

Very sincerely,

M. H. Thatcher

MHT:W

WHERE THEY BELONG

Transfer of the Lincoln Farm, with its granite memorial inclosing the log cabin in which the Emancipator was born, from the War Department to the National Park Service, as proposed, would be a service which the people of Kentucky would appreciate. Wakefield, birthplace of Washington, has been placed under the park service control by a special act of Congress, and it has been recommended that all national military parks and national monuments be turned over to this bureau, which is admirably equipped to manage them.

Motor tourists are quite as much interested in visiting historical spots as scenic parks. The touring public seems eager to learn at first hand more of America's story, to see with its own eyes battlefields where great issues have been decided—with powder and ball instead of amicably and peaceably. Americans want to see the heights where cannon were placed, the stone wall where their ancestors charged in vain, the hill where the redskins made their last stand and the homes where the famous lived, moved and had their being. The National Park Service is prepared not only to administer, manage and protect these areas, but to acquaint the public with the his-

toric background and traditions of the spots which figured in the building of a nation.

Gettysburg, Shiloh, Antietam, Vicksburg, Chickamauga, Guilford Court House and the less developed battlefield parks at Fredricksburg, Spotsylvania, Petersburg, Stones River, Tenn., and Moore's Creek, N. C., would become national historical parks under the joint recommendation of the Secretaries of War and the Interior. National monuments which would be included, besides Lincoln Farm, are the Big Hole battlefield, in Montana; the Meriwether Lewis plot, in Tennessee; White Plains battlefield, in New York; Fort McHenry, Baltimore, where "the rock et's red glare" inspired Francis Scott Key; Fort Pulaski, Georgia; Forts Marion and Matangas, St. Augustine, Fla., and Chalmette, La.

Dr. Warren

LINCOLN LIFE

NATIONAL PARKS NEWS SERVICE

Referred to _____

REC'D JUN 22 1936

For Use of Association Members, Cooperating Organizations, and Congress

Answered _____

NUMBER 41

Robert Sterling Yard
Editor

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT
June 8
1936

REPORT ON THE PLACE OF PRIMEVAL PARKS IN THE REORGANIZED NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

The National Parks System, once the expression of the highest ideals and uses to which primeval wilderness of exalted beauty could be applied, has been required in recent years to embrace areas which do not justify the adjective primeval. The original system is now virtually lost sight of among innumerable recreational activities, local, regional and national, assigned to the National Park Service.

The present day popular conception of National Parks as open-air reservations of different kinds owned by the nation and maintained largely for playground use makes no distinction between the primeval kind of national parks and other kinds administered by the National Park Service. To save the primeval national parks and all they once meant to the nation, we must find a special title for them which will exclude all others from the system by definition.

Such title is National Primeval Park System.

The National Primeval Parks still exist as individual areas scattered alphabetically, in the lists published by the National Park Service, among many of different quality, use and standard.

Our first thirty years of national park making, producing in succession Yellowstone in Wyoming, 1872, Sequoia, General Grant and Yosemite in California, 1890, Mount Rainier, Washington, 1899, and Crater Lake, Oregon, 1902, established for all time the kinds, standards and uses of a marvellous system to come. These parks were chosen by the people themselves for their majesty and their loveliness of contour, their exquisiteness of lake and stream, the supreme beauty of their richly woven mantle of vegetation, and the symphonies in illumination, shadow and color played upon them by light and atmosphere. Enjoyment of them was saturated with rare uplifting of the spirit.

The brilliance of these primeval areas result from their unaltered condition of descent from the beginning. There is no mistaking primeval quality.

In those first years of park-making, vast areas of lesser scenic degree west, north and even east shared this primal brilliance, but that was not to last. The quite sudden coming, with national park organization, of long-distance motor-touring and road-building on a great scale, added to the fifty years of intensive cutting of the forests, forest fires, settlement, mining and exploitation of other resources, has left little primitive surface outside national forests and the protected national parks. With the opening of the wilderness, demand increased for nation-owned parks of every type.

Today, to distinguish all our many and increasing kinds of national parks from each other, each kind must be called by a title of its own. The title National Primeval Park System hereafter will be recognized by the people and understood by the Government bureaus even if, for a time, it fails of official adoption.

As early as 1903, before National Parks were recognized as a system, small, unstandard park-like creations were made upon local demand, but immediately afterward park-making was resumed on the larger primeval basis, and so continued until the beginning of the recent expansion.

During these years of appreciation, primeval park-making recommenced with Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado in 1906 - notable also for the best preserved archaeological remains in the country; after which followed in order Glacier in Montana, 1910; Rocky Mountain in Colorado, 1915; Hawaii in the Hawaiian Islands, 1916; Lassen Volcanic in California, 1916; Mount McKinley in Alaska, 1917; Grand Canyon in Arizona, 1919; Zion Canyon in Utah, 1919; Bryce Canyon in Utah, 1928; Grand Teton in Wyoming, 1929; Great Smoky Mountains, straddling the high ridge between North Carolina and Tennessee, 1930; and Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico, 1930.

All these qualify by possession of relatively large and exceedingly important areas of primeval surface. All together they will provide the United States with a National Primeval Park System of eighteen units which will have no rival in the world in range, variety, and magnificence of scenery, nor in organization for the study of earth history and the procession of life.

Nor will this regrouping injure the prestige of other national parks. Probably it will enhance it. Wind Cave, Platt, Lincoln's Birthplace, Fort McHenry, Acadia, Hot Springs and Shenandoah will each, on its own merit, find its own place in the esteem of people, and no longer be merely a hanger-on to more famous parks in its own system, and meantime the National Historical Parks and Sites, the National Military Parks, the National Battlegrounds, the National Monuments, and the newer systems to come, whatever they may be, will get each its own characteristic recognition of usefulness to the people of the country. Each may become numerous but must clearly be distinguished from the National Primeval Parks System, the value of which is priceless for other reasons.

Committee: Albert W. Atwood
Frederick V. Coville
F. M. Goodwin

Robert Marshall
Robert Sterling Yard, Sec'y
Henry Baldwin Ward, Chairman

After lengthy discussion the Board of Trustees unanimously received the report, and adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, that the National Parks Association in its own usage, and for the benefit and understanding of the people of the country, shall segregate from all other national parks, and designate by the title of National Primeval Parks System, those National Parks which, by reason of possessing primeval wilderness of conspicuous importance and supreme scenic beauty, conform to the standards originally recognized under the title of National Parks; and that it shall persistently urge this segregation and this title upon the people of the country, citizen organizations, Congress and the Government, in confident expectation that, in good time, it will receive official and universal recognition.

Albert W. Atwood, Secretary

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor.
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Number 409

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

February 8, 1937

LINCOLN'S BIRTHPLACE FARM—"THE PRECISE LOCALITY"

When Abraham Lincoln prepared a brief sketch for the artist, Hicks on June 14, 1860, he wrote in referring to his birthplace, "I know no means of identifying the precise locality." It was not until the editor of Lincoln Lore made his documentary researches in Hardin County, Kentucky that the "precise locality" of the Lincoln farm was established by duly authorized court records.

When Richard J. Collier purchased what was known as the birthplace farm in 1905, he had no assurance but tradition and folklore that the land he acquired was once in possession of Thomas Lincoln, father of the President. One newspaper account of the Collier purchase stated that "Since the birth of Lincoln on February 12, 1809, the farm has changed hands only twice. Thomas Lincoln, the father of the President, sold the land to Richard Creal about the time the family moved to Indiana in 1816." Richard Creal did not acquire the part of the Lincoln farm where the cabin stood until August 26, 1867, fifty years after the Lincolns left Kentucky. By that time the cabin tract had changed hands eleven times. Creal added this tract to a hundred acre survey he had previously acquired and after some changes in the boundary sold 110½ acres to A. W. Dennett in 1894, specifying in the deed that it was the farm on which Abraham Lincoln was born.

When the United States came in possession of the traditional birthplace farm in 1816, there was no abstract of title available which proved that the farm was once in possession of Thomas Lincoln. In fact there were those primarily interested in the project who claimed that Lincoln lived on a squatter's domain so the boundaries of any specific piece of ground surrounding the cabin were of no importance.

But Abraham Lincoln was not born on a squatter's domain. His father paid two hundred dollars "cash in hand" for a 300 acre tract on which the birthplace cabin stood. The document showing Thomas Lincoln's ownership of the land is to be found in the Hardin County Circuit Court records, a copy of which follows with the endorsements of David Vance and Isaac Bush:

MATHER TO VANCE—BOND

"Articles of agreement made this First Day of May, 1805 between Richard Mather of the County of Hardin, and State of Kentucky, and David Vance of the County and State aforesaid wnesseeth that I have sold to the

said David Vance a certain parcel or tract of land on the waters of the South Fork of Nolin containing 300 acres beginning near or at a spring called the Sinking Spring, to be twice as long as wide and including as much of a grove called the Little Turkey Grove, as will fall within the boundary as aforesaid and I do obligate myself to make a deed with a general warranty to the said David Vance when the said David Vance has made full payment to

Signed: Isaac Bush; witness, Sam Haycraft."

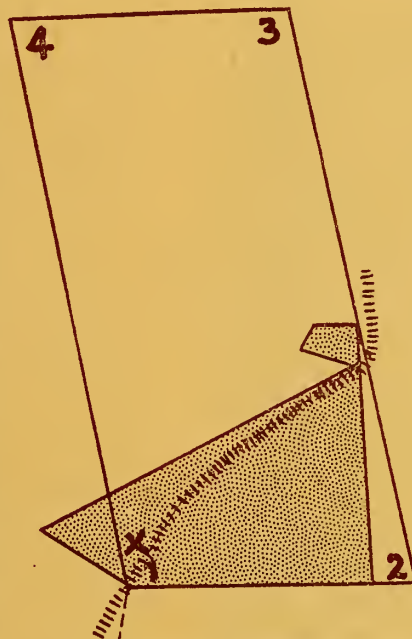
It was not long after Thomas Lincoln acquired the land that it was in litigation over payments Vance had failed to make to Mather. The court decreed Thomas Lincoln should receive from William Bush the \$200.00 he had paid for the land, and he moved from the premises in 1811. This tract originally in possession of Thomas Lincoln was surveyed by order of the court in 1837, and was found to contain 348½ acres instead of the designated 300. The boundaries follow:

"Beginning at a large white oak (1) 13 poles above the sinking or rock spring, running thence to a North 9½ degrees West 155 poles to a stake (2) in John Taylor's field, thence South 89½ degrees East 155 poles to a forked black jack (3), thence South 9½ degrees East 310 poles to a black jack (4), thence North 89½ degrees West 155 poles to the beginning."

The above survey was divided into several smaller tracts including one of nine acres surrounding the Lincoln cabin, which at the time designated has been in possession of the following property holders since it was first patented as part of a 30,000 acre survey:

William Geenough, February 20, 1786; John Dewhurst, June 15, 1786; William Weymouth, October 15, 1791; Joseph James, June 11, 1798; Richard Mather, December 23, 1802; David Vance, May 1, 1805; Isaac Bush, November 2, 1805; Thomas Lincoln, December 12, 1808; Benjamin Wright, Comm'r., September 12, 1816; Gabriel Kirkpatrick, December 19, 1816; John Welsh and William Duckworth, December 19, 1816; George Burkhart, July 16, 1822; Henry Thomas, January 28, 1824; John Gash, October 14, 1830; Henry Brothers, April 7, 1835; Charles F. Huss, March 25, 1840; William Huss and William J. Thomas, February 15, 1845; Henry D. Horn, September 27, 1852; R. P. Hankla, December 14, 1853; Richard Creal, August 26, 1867; Alfred W. Dennett, November 23, 1894; L. B. Hanley, Comm'r., May, 1905; R. J. Collier, August 28, 1905; Lincoln Farm Ass'n., November 9, 1907; United States of America, April 11, 1916.

The titles to the other tracts cut out of the original Thomas Lincoln 348½ acre survey have been traced through the court records so that we may say that there is now, documentary proof for what we may call "the precise location" of the Lincoln Birthplace Farm.



BIRTHPLACE FARM

X—Site of Birthplace cabin.

1.—Beginning corner of four farms.

Numerals—Four corners of 348½ acre survey.

Road—Old Cumberland Road, Louisville to Nashville.

Shaded Portion—Tract of 110½ acres now in possession of the United States Government.

Richard Mather or his order for the aforesaid land, in witness whereof we have inter-changeably set our hands the day and year above written. Signed Richard Mather. Witnesses: John Gum, Shepherd Gum."

Endorsement. No. 1. "For value received I assign the within agreement to Isaac Bush, given under my hand and seal this 2nd Day of November, 1805. Signed David Vance. Witnesses: Ben Helm, John Miller."

Endorsement. No. 2. "For Value received I assign the within article to Thomas Lincoln. Witness my hand and seal the 12th Day of December, 1808.

11-13
New York TIMES

LINCOLN'S FATHER GOT FARM IN 1808

Purchase Showing Family
Were Not Campers Discovered
by National Park Service

EMANCIPATOR BORN THERE

Landmark Dating to Early
19th Century Is White Oak
Tree 8 Ft. in Diameter

Documentary proofs of Thomas Lincoln's ownership of the farm at Hodgenville, Ky., where his illustrious son, Abraham Lincoln, was born, and other legal papers pertaining to the Lincoln family have been preserved for posterity by the timely action of historical technicians of the National Park Service, the acting director, A. E. Demaray, has reported to Secretary Ickes of the Interior Department. Microfilm copies have been made of these valuable papers, as well as of others concerned with Lincoln's ancestry, on file in Larue County Court House, Kentucky, the whole totaling some 580 exposures, which will become a part of the archives of the government.

The Hardin County records are the only papers extant attesting to the elder Lincoln's legal ownership of the land on which he built with his own hands the crude log cabin where the Great Emancipator first saw the light. This cabin, the pretentious memorial building enclosing it, together with 110½ acres, today comprise Abraham Lincoln National Park, administered by the National Park Service. The documents possess added importance because they disprove a persistent tradition that Lincoln's forebears were virtually paupers.

According to the musty records the original birthplace, known as the Sinking Spring Farm consisted of 348 acres, and was acquired by Thomas Lincoln in December, 1808, for the consideration of \$200. Thomas Lincoln signed the paper transferring the equity of the former owner, Isaac Bush, by making his mark.

The records further show that in 1813 foreclosure proceedings were instituted against Isaac Bush by one Mather, who claimed an equity in the lands which Bush had purchased, and later transferred to Thomas Lincoln. Rather than pay the sum of \$87.74, which constituted the unpaid balance, plus interest, of the original \$200 sale price, Thomas Lincoln surrendered his equity in the Sinking Spring Farm, where Abraham had been born, and removed to Knob Creek, some eight miles distant. In 1816 the Sinking Spring Farm was sold at public auction. It was at the Knob Creek farm that Abraham Lincoln spent most of his boyhood.

Ambiguously styled "Mather vs. Vance," this irreplaceable heritage from the early nineteenth century was discovered some twenty years ago by Dr. Louis A. Warren of the Lincoln National Life Foundation of Fort Wayne, Ind., who later brought the papers to the attention of the National Park Service. Dr. Warren has done extensive research in Kentucky's county records and elsewhere on Lincoln's birthplace and ancestry. He has published one volume on the subject and has others in preparation.

Extensive work in the county records carried on also by research technicians of the National Park Service, and the replotting of old property lines, have produced much interesting evidence of the considerable extent of the farm which was Lincoln's birthplace. The present highway almost bisects the original holdings, though only a few hundred feet of the area comprising Abraham Lincoln National Park front today upon the highway. Still discernible are the traces of an old lane, which tied in with Thomas Lincoln's Sinking Spring Farm. Most conspicuous landmark of all, and probably the only one contemporaneous with Abraham Lincoln's day, is a mammoth white oak tree. This has a diameter of eight feet and has been recorded as a survey point for more than 150 years. Even at the time of Lincoln's birth the old oak was a venerable feature of the landscape.

Secretary Ickes regards the locating and microfilming of the Hardin County Court House records on Thomas Lincoln's farm as a valuable contribution of the National Park Service to the conservation of historical papers, perhaps second to none in importance. The various individual rolls have been spliced into one for convenient handling, and an index is attached. The microfilming was done by Melvin J. Welg of the staff of Morristown National Historical Park, New Jersey, in conjunction with Dr. Warren.

FROM
GREENSBURG
TO
DEWHURST
WEYMOUTH
MATHER
+
JOHNSON

ON S FORK OF
NOLIN
R.V. CO.
RACON CO.
LYNN CAMP

S. FORK OF NOLIN	PRIOR 1800	
	MATHER FROM JAMES	14000
	Hood	15000
	MATER & JOHNSON	
	1802	30000

11 1805 MATHER TO YANCE 30000
TO
TO BUSH
TO
THOMAS LINCOLN
TO
BARRY WRIGHT
TO
COMMONS
TO
JOHN WELSH

ON S F. NOLIN
Beginning near
SINKING Spring
(LITTLE TURKEY
GROVE)

G. Mather

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 535

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

July 10, 1939

BIRTHPLACE FARM TITLE

This year marks the one hundred and thirtieth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Nearly eighty years have now passed since the place of his nativity has been given more or less attention, and for nearly a quarter of a century the birthplace farm of the President has been a national shrine.

It was not until last month, however, that the United States government obtained documentary evidence that the farm on which the enshrined cabin now stands was actually in the possession at one time of Abraham Lincoln's father.

When the editor of Lincoln Lore first went to Hodgenville, Kentucky, to reside twenty years ago, he discovered to his amazement that the site of the Lincoln National Park was determined entirely by testimonies of old citizens whose affidavits were nothing more than a collection of folklore and tradition. The fact that Abraham Lincoln himself could not point to the precise location of his cabin birthplace contributed to the confusion.

The affidavits by old citizens of Larue County were matched by other testimonies duly authorized by people living elsewhere, which affirmed that in fourteen other cabins in as many different communities the nativity of Abraham Lincoln occurred.

Here is a list of the rival birthplaces as compiled by the editor:

Jonathan's Creek, Swain County, N. C.
Ocona Lufta, Swain County, N. C.
Caravan, Enroute to Kentucky.
Lynn Mountain, Tennessee.
Beech Fork, Washington County, Ky.
Stone House, Bourbon County, Ky.
Cabin, Thatcher's Mill, Bourbon County, Ky.
Talbot Place, Hardin County, Ky.
"Pop" Martin Place, Hardin County, Ky.
Lincoln Cabin, Elizabethtown, Ky.
Race Street, Elizabethtown, Ky.
Mill Creek, Hardin County, Ky.
Mouth of South Fork, Larue County, Ky.
Knob Creek, Larue County, Ky.
Plum Orchard, Buffalo, Larue County, Ky.

When the Abraham Lincoln Farm Association in 1916 deeded the 110½ acres of land and the Lincoln cabin and improvements to the government, there was no legal land document accompanying the papers to prove that Abraham Lincoln's father was ever in possession of the farm. One spokesman for the association plainly stated that Lincoln's father was a squatter on the land and never held possession of any specified boundaries.

The uncertainty of the location of the birthplace of Lincoln and the lack of documentary data to establish beyond a doubt the actual site of the nativity encouraged the editor of Lincoln Lore to search the public record for evidence relating to Thomas Lincoln's land holdings. When he emerged from this long period of research covering nearly ten years, he had discovered many original records which gave to the Lincoln National Park a documentary rather than a traditional background.

At the time the government acquired the Lincoln farm one newspaper stated that the property had changed hands only twice since Abraham Lincoln was born there. The fact is that the tract on which the birthplace cabin stood had changed hands eighteen times during the interval between Thomas Lincoln's residence and acquisition by the United States of America.

It was not until the Lincoln farm was recently placed under the jurisdiction of the Historic Sites Department of the National Park Service that there seemed to be any inclination to give to this important shrine a historic setting. It is through the efforts of the Historic Sites Department that the government is now in possession of photographic copies of valuable records relating to the Kentucky land holdings of Thomas Lincoln and especially to the boundaries of the birthplace farm.

It was a pleasure indeed for the editor of Lincoln Lore to spend a whole week in the month of June assisting a representative of the National Park Service to make over four hundred micro films of early land grants, deeds of conveyance, papers in law suits and other public records which deal directly with the Lincoln Farm in Kentucky. Although many of these records had been discovered by the editor more than twenty years ago and many of them had passed through one serious fire they were found in an excellent state of preservation notwithstanding the fact that some of the documents were written one hundred and fifty years ago.

The original land grant of sixty thousand acres within which the Lincoln farm was situated was photographed along with the first transfer of the half of the property made on June 15, 1786. The large boundary was then divided into two smaller tracts of fifteen thousand acres each, and after passing through several hands, further divisions were made until an eight thousand acre tract was acquired by Richard Mather.

Richard Mather sold a three hundred acre tract to David Vance and two endorsements on the article of agreement indicate the acquisition of this property first by Isaac Bush and then by Thomas Lincoln. The endorsements are as follows:

(1) For value received I assign the within agreement to Isaac Bush given under my hand and seal this 2nd day of Nov. 1805. Test. Ben Helm, John Miller, David Vance.

(2) For value received I assign the within article to Thomas Lincoln witness my hand and seal the 12th day of December 1808.
Test. Sam Haycraft

Isaac Bush

While Thomas Lincoln was in possession, the land was thrown into litigation over the validity of the title, and the two hundred dollars cash which Thomas Lincoln paid for the farm as the court records disclose was probably a clear loss to him. The farm continued in litigation after it passed out of Thomas Lincoln's hands and was finally cut up into several smaller tracts.

The recording of these original records relating to the Lincoln farm is a major historical achievement in Lincolniana and will now make it possible for the United States government to trace the title of the Lincoln farm back to the original patentee.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

July 31, 1940.

Mr. Louis A. Warren,
Director, Lincoln National
Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Mr. Warren:

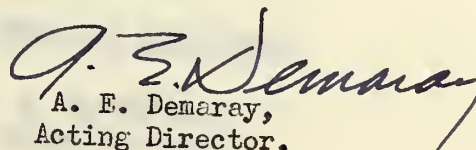
I have received your letter of July 11 regarding the proposed texts for two panels at Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park, copies of which were sent to you for your comments.

I am very glad that you approve the proposal to replace the old inaccurate inscriptions with others written in accordance with the best historical information.

Your suggestions with regard to desirable changes in both the Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks texts have been noted. They will be carefully considered in the preparation of the final text, a copy of which will be sent to you for comment before it is finally adopted.

Your interest in the inscriptions at Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,


A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

July 31, 1940.

Mr. Louis A. Warren,
Director, Lincoln National
Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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Your interest in the inscriptions at Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) A. E. DEMARAY

A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

July 6, 1940.

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Mr. Warren:

I am enclosing copies of the texts prepared by the historical staff of the National Park Service for the Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks panels at Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park.

As you know, the inscriptions now used on these panels are historically inaccurate. It is planned to replace them with those enclosed. Since you have been interested in this problem, I am sending these texts to you for your comments. I shall welcome any suggestions that you may care to make on the wording as proposed.

Sincerely yours,


A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director.

Enclosure 2134423.

July 11, 1940

Mr. A. L. Demaray
Acting Director
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Demaray:

We are pleased indeed to learn that the historical tablets relating to Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks Lincoln at the Lincoln National Historical Park are to be revised.

Comments upon the proposed wording are indicated by numerals on the accompanying memorandum.

I hope that you will not feel that I am assuming any uninvited privilege if I submit data for the two tablets which it appears to me would more fully set forth the lives of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln. You will observe that I have eliminated folklore and eulogistic data in favor of important historical facts supported by documentary evidence. I am sure that this approach would be welcomed by Secretary Ickes who is very anxious that all our historical projects may be in line with proven facts.

Having spent twenty years of my life in a detailed study of the Lincolns, you can see how keenly I feel on such an extremely important task as you have in hand.

It has been a pleasure indeed to cooperate with the Department of the Interior in other Lincoln projects, and I trust you may feel my sincere interest in the attempts which your department is making to give the Lincoln National Historical Park an historical background in every respect.

Yours very truly,

Law:ab

Director

THOMAS LINCOLN

1. 1778 - His name appears on the tax list in 1777 as a "white male twenty-one or over." The year before he was listed on tax list as between 16 and 20. Tradition gives his birthdate as 1778 but the public record noted above gives it as 1776.
2. "On a farm" - They were probably living in a fort called Hughes' Station adjacent to a piece of land they were trying to clear.
3. Probably - This word can be omitted as the President confirms his visit in Tennessee on an indefinite date.
4. June 10 - June 12 is the correct date of the wedding. the marriage bond was signed on June 10.
5. 200 acres - The Knob Creek tract contained 260 acres.

NANCY HANKS

1. Nancy Hanks - Why should this not be Nancy Hanks - Lincoln?
2. It is not known that she came to Kentucky with Lucy Hanks. There is one rather widespread tradition that she came with relatives of her mother.
3. This whole section should be omitted, as the story is no more dependable than the Graham story inscribed on the present tablet. Dennis Hanks, the informant, was called by one author, "Lying Dennis." He drew greatly on his imagination. There are several traditions which state that at least three or four people were the first to arrive. Dennis was only ten years old when this event happened. His own mother, Nancy Hanks Friend, lived close by the Elizabeth Hanks Sparrow home, and when sixty years later he tried to recall the birth of Abraham Lincoln, he may have been confused with the nativities of other babies.

Father of Abraham Lincoln was born about 1776 in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. He was fifth in descent from an English immigrant, Samuel Lincoln, who arrived in Massachusetts on May 26, 1637. The grandfather of Thomas, John Lincoln, was born in New Jersey, married in Pennsylvania, and he died in Virginia. Thomas' father, the pioneer Abraham, at 42 years of age was massacred by the Indians near Louisville, Kentucky, in 1786, leaving a widow, Bathsheba, and five children.

Thomas Lincoln, in the words of his famous son, "by the early death of his father, and very narrow circumstances of his mother, even in childhood was a wandering laboring-boy, and grew up literally without education." He served in the Kentucky militia in 1795 and later passed a year as a hired hand in Tennessee with his uncle Isaac. Returning to Kentucky he settled in Elizabethtown and followed the trade of a frontier carpenter, also making at least one trip to New Orleans as a boat hand. Although he acquired several tracts of land, most of them were entirely lost through bad titles.

The first wife of Thomas Lincoln was Nancy Hanks whom he married on June 12, 1806. By her he had three children, including Abraham the President. After her death he married, on December 2, 1819, Sarah Fush Johnston, a widow with three children. With his first wife and children he migrated to Indiana in 1816, with his second wife and family in 1830 he moved from Indiana to Illinois. He passed away on January 15, 1851, in Coles County.

First wife of Thomas Lincoln and mother of Abraham Lincoln was born in Virginia about 1784. Little is known about her parentage and ancestry. She came to Kentucky previous to 1789 with relatives and was reared in Washington County by the Berry family. When she was married to Thomas Lincoln in 1806, Richard Berry signed as Nancy's guardian and the wedding took place in one of the Berry's homes.

Nancy and her husband went to housekeeping in Elizabethtown where a cabin had been acquired, and here the following year her first child, a daughter named Sarah, was born. On December 12, 1808, her husband purchased for "\$200 cash in hand" the farm on which this memorial building is located, and here on February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born. At the time of Abraham's birth several relatives of his mother lived close by and likely assisted her. This cabin home over which Mrs. Lincoln presided, situated on a much-traveled road by an excellent spring, was not unlike most pioneer dwellings of the day, although the furniture was home-made and the clothing homespun.

Some time in 1811 Nancy and Thomas Lincoln moved ten miles north to a farm in the Knob Creek community still on the same road. Here was born a third child, Thomas, who died in infancy. Nancy Lincoln's last home was on Pigeon Creek in Indiana. After a residence there of about two years, while caring for the stricken victims of an epidemic, she was taken ill and died within a week, on October 5, 1818. Her husband and two children, Sarah, eleven years of age, and Abraham, nine years of age, survived her.

August 22, 1941

Mr. John Cessill
Lincoln Farm
Hodgenville, Ky.

My dear Mr. Cessill:

Thank you very much for the interesting little booklet which you have and I think they have added greatly to one's interest in the birthplace farm.

Do I imply from your drawing that the Lincoln farm now extends over the entire territory indicated in the map and what has been done with the part of the Lincoln farm on the east side of the main road? I am interested indeed in these land acquisitions. Just drop me a note about it please.

Very truly yours,

LAW:MM

Director

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park,
Hodgenville, Kentucky,
Sept., 15, 1941.

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Bro. Warren:

Please forgive my seeming neglect of your letter of August 22st. we have had a very busy season, we are open 13-hrs. through the summer months, and I am on the job all of my time. since Labor day, we have had a decided decrease in visitors.

Will try and furnish the information you requested. the map on the leaflet shows the present west side area. The line I drew on the leaflet would show the old original line, as you have indicated in the past.

The Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park boundary lines are the same, no changes have been made, the area consists of the 110-A.

Please visit us when it is convenient, we are always glad to see you, with your very best wishes for you and yours, I am,

very respectfully,

John M. Cissell.
✓ John M. Cissell,
Superintendent.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGION ONE
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

May 28, 1948.

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Director, Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren:

I am attaching the report of Historical Aide Davis (Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park), dated February 12, 1948, concerning the original Thomas Lincoln farm near Hodgenville, Kentucky.

I believe you will be interested in reading the report. Your particular attention is invited to Mr. Davis' conclusion on page 2, to the effect that the Thomas Lincoln farm was derived from the northern 15,000 acre tract rather than from the southern 15,000 acre tract of the Greenough grant. I believe that your researches into this subject many years ago led you to think that the Lincoln farm was derived from the southern part of the Greenough grant.

You will notice that a large part of the research material is based on the microfilm copy of the Mather vs. Vance papers which you helped us obtain several years ago. I still remember with considerable pleasure my visit with you at Hodgenville and vicinity, during which time we went to Elizabethtown and finally located the Mather vs. Vance papers in an unfiled and uncataglogued collection in the basement of the court house.

Every now and then I have reports from someone in the Service about you. Dr. Walter Coleman, Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park, not long ago told me you had lectured at Gettysburg and that everyone enjoyed your talk very much.

The attached report by Mr. Davis is the only one we have in our files, so I will appreciate your returning it to me after you have finished with it. We shall be glad to have any comment you wish to make.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Appleman

Roy E. Appleman,
Regional Historian.

Enclosure
(Report)

June 3, 1948

Mr. Roy E. Appleman
National Park Service
Region One
U. S. Department of the Interior
Richmond, Virginia

My dear Mr. Appleman:

It was very kind indeed of you to allow me to look over the interesting report of Mr. Davis on the title to the Thomas Lincoln farm.

I think I shall have to concur with him in his statement with reference to the location of the 15,000 acre tract because from the time I reached Hodgenville until I left I was continually confused at the directions North and South and always having to reverse my statements which may have been hastily written. Even to this day when I drive from Hodgenville out to the birth place farm I think I am going north. I expect you have had some such experience.

I am wondering if an article on the Lincoln birthplace cabin which has been submitted to the Abraham Lincoln association for publication in its quarterly has come to your attention.

I fear it is going to be a very difficult argument to combat. I have had several talks with the author and he seems to be thoroughly convinced that there are no logs whatever in the old cabin now within the memorial which were a part of the original birth place cabin.

Of course, both of us have expressed some doubts about it and I think you have more or less cleared yourself by your statement in your publication. However, I think you should have an opportunity to see this monograph before it is published because it does cast considerable reflection upon the sponsors of the Lincoln birthplace enterprise.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

June 3, 1948

May 29, 1948

Mr. Roy E. Appleman
National Park Service
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Appleman:

I am very happy indeed to hear from you at any time and under cover I am returning the manuscript registered.

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How Lincoln Farm Was Saved From Being a Distillery Site

Lincoln Farm Sold by Master Commissioner Handley in 1905

(The story printed below has been published in these, and other, columns, but because it is one of the most fascinating of all Lincolniana, it is re-printed herewith, and also because of the veracity of the man who tells it, Prof. G. L. Crume, of Vine Grove. Mr. Crume is past 90 years old, and Judge L. B. Handley, referred to in the account as Circuit Judge, is still living in Hodgenville, though he has retired from the bench:)

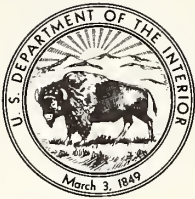
"During the noon hour of August 11, 1905, I happened to be a member of a very interested group of men in the Courthouse Square of Hodgenville, Larue County, Kentucky. It was the day that the Lincoln Farm was to be sold. "The center of this group was a young man, L. B. Handley, Master Commissioner of Larue County. Two buyers were on the ground—L. B. Collier, who wished to preserve the farm as a shrine for posterity, and a patent med-

icine man, who wished to build a patent medicine factory on the farm. A third, a representative of a whiskey firm, was on the way. Mr. Handley had received a call from him from Elizabethtown saying that he had come to Elizabethtown over the L&N Railroad and spent the night at a hotel. He had overslept and missed the IC train from Cecilia to Hodgenville, but that he was coming in a buggy with the fastest team he could procure and not to sell the Lincoln Farm until he got there, for he had unlimited capital back of him and would buy it at any price.

"Feeling ran high in this group for they knew that he wished to buy the farm so his firm could build a distillery and brand its product 'Lincoln Whiskey'. They realized that such a procedure would be a disgrace to the fair name of Lincoln.

"Mr. Handley, now Circuit Judge, of Larue County, nervously paced back and forth with his watch in his hand. Promptly at the stroke of one, although there was other property to sell, he put the Lincoln Farm up for

sale. Bidding by Mr. Collier and the patent medicine man went fast at first; finally the patent medicine man reached the limits of his finances and just as the farm was knocked off to Mr. Collier, a clatter of hoofs was heard on the old covered bridge a square north of the Courthouse. A shout came from the interested group as the team, covered with lather, drove up and the whiskey salesman jumped to the ground."



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION, P. O. BOX 10008
FEDERAL BUILDING, RICHMOND, VA. 23240

JUL 11 1968

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry
Lincoln Life Ins., Co.
Fort Wayne, Ind.

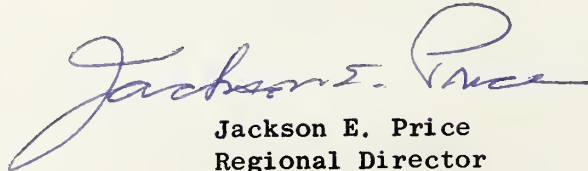
Dear Dr. McMurtry:

Because of your personal interest in the activities of the National Park Service, I am pleased to inform you of the appointment of Jerry L. Schober as successor to Ernest L. Wright who recently retired. In this connection I am enclosing a copy of our press release announcing Mr. Schober's appointment as Superintendent of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site.

Mr. Schober is a career employee and he has done a fine job in all the assignments he has had with the National Park Service. I am sure you will find him cooperative and highly competent. I have told him of your interest and I know he will want to be in touch with you at the first opportunity. In the meantime, please call on him or this office if we can be of assistance.

With kind regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,


Jackson E. Price
Regional Director

*****news release

649-3611 Cullen
X2651

JERRY L. SCHOBEN NAMED SUPERINTENDENT
OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The appointment of Jerry L. Schober as superintendent of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site was announced today in Richmond by Jackson E. Price, Southeast Regional Director, National Park Service. Schober, 37, succeeds Ernest L. Wright who recently retired.

A graduate of Mississippi College, Schober began his career in the National Park Service as a park historian at Vicksburg National Military Park, Mississippi, in 1960. In 1963 he became supervisory historian at Shiloh National Military Park, Tennessee, and in 1966 was transferred to Central National Capital Parks, Washington, D. C. as Assistant Chief, Resource Management.

Married, with three children, Schober is a veteran of the Army Air Force. He expects to report to his new position about July 14.

FROM THE STAR FILES

Lincoln Cabin Becomes Shrine

50 Years Ago

The nation received a new shrine on September 4, 1916, when the log cabin at Hodgenville, Ky., where Abraham Lincoln was born became the property of the Federal Government. President Wilson went to Hodgenville to accept the homestead from the Lincoln Farm Association, which had acquired it by popular subscription. After nearly a century of neglect, the cabin was sheltered in an impressive granite memorial hall.

THE SUNDAY STAR
Washington, D. C., September 4, 1966



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
ROUTE 1, HODGENVILLE, KENTUCKY 42748

IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 29, 1976

Mr. Mark E. Neely, Jr.
Director
Lincoln National Life Foundation
1301 South Harrison Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Dear Mr. Neely:

The enclosed Statement for Management for Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site is for your review and possible comment. This document has gone through an initial review process within National Park Service channels and is now being made available for public review and comment of not less than 30 days from December 1, 1976.

Copies of the proposed statement have been mailed to a number of individuals such as yourself who we felt would possess special concerns over the future directions taken in the management of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace. In addition, press releases will be used to inform others of the ongoing public review. The statement will also be on public display at the park for anyone who may care to review it and make comments.

A statement for management is a basic planning document that is required for all National Park Service areas. It is basically a framework for future planning and management of a National Park area. As such, the attached statement will be used at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace to guide short- and long-term management and to determine the nature and extent of planning required to meet the park's management objectives.

The heart of the plan is in the various management objectives which have been detailed in the final section. Upon final review and approval of this document, all future management decisions will be directed toward fulfilling the park's purpose through achievement of these objectives. In reviewing the plan it should be kept in mind that the management objectives represent a desired end result and do not necessarily detail all procedures to follow. Additional planning efforts will be directed toward procedural arrangements in these cases.



At the end of the public review period, all input will be summarized and evaluated. The Statement for Management will then be revised as necessary and resubmitted to the Southeast Regional Director for final approval. If changes must be made in management objectives or items that may affect management, then the plan will have to be re-submitted to the Director of the National Park Service for policy review prior to final approval.

We would appreciate it if any comments could be submitted by no later than December 30, 1976. This would be of considerable help in preparing the final summary and would assure that your comments receive consideration. If you have any questions please feel free to write or to phone us at 502-358-3874. Also, please feel free to share this material with others who may be interested. We will look forward to reading any comments you may care to make.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicholas J. Eason". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicholas J. Eason
Superintendent

Enclosure

*Ch. United States Dept. of
The Interior*

December 29, 1976

Mr. Nicholas J. Eason, Superintendent
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site
Route 11
Hodgenville, Kentucky 42748

Dear Mr. Eason:

I have read your management statement with interest and a general sense of relief to know that someone is thinking about these things. The most serious threat to most parks and sites seems to be inundation by visitors, and, its steady accompaniment, the blight of nearby commercial development. The former seems to be no problem; the latter can never be anticipated early enough. Efforts to secure property guaranteeing nostalgic vistas should have high priority, for there seems to be no undoing it once the blight arrives (Springfield being a happy exception). Although it has been a long time since I visited the site, I do recall a feeling that the sophistication of the interpretation of the site needed improvement--that is, that the interpretation could be upgraded. I do not get terribly excited about the landscaping of the building. Its architecture is not a significant aspect of the historical associations of the site.

Yours truly,

Mark E. Neely, Jr.

MEN/cks

STATEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT

ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Prepared by: Nicholas J. Eason
Nicholas J. Eason
Superintendent

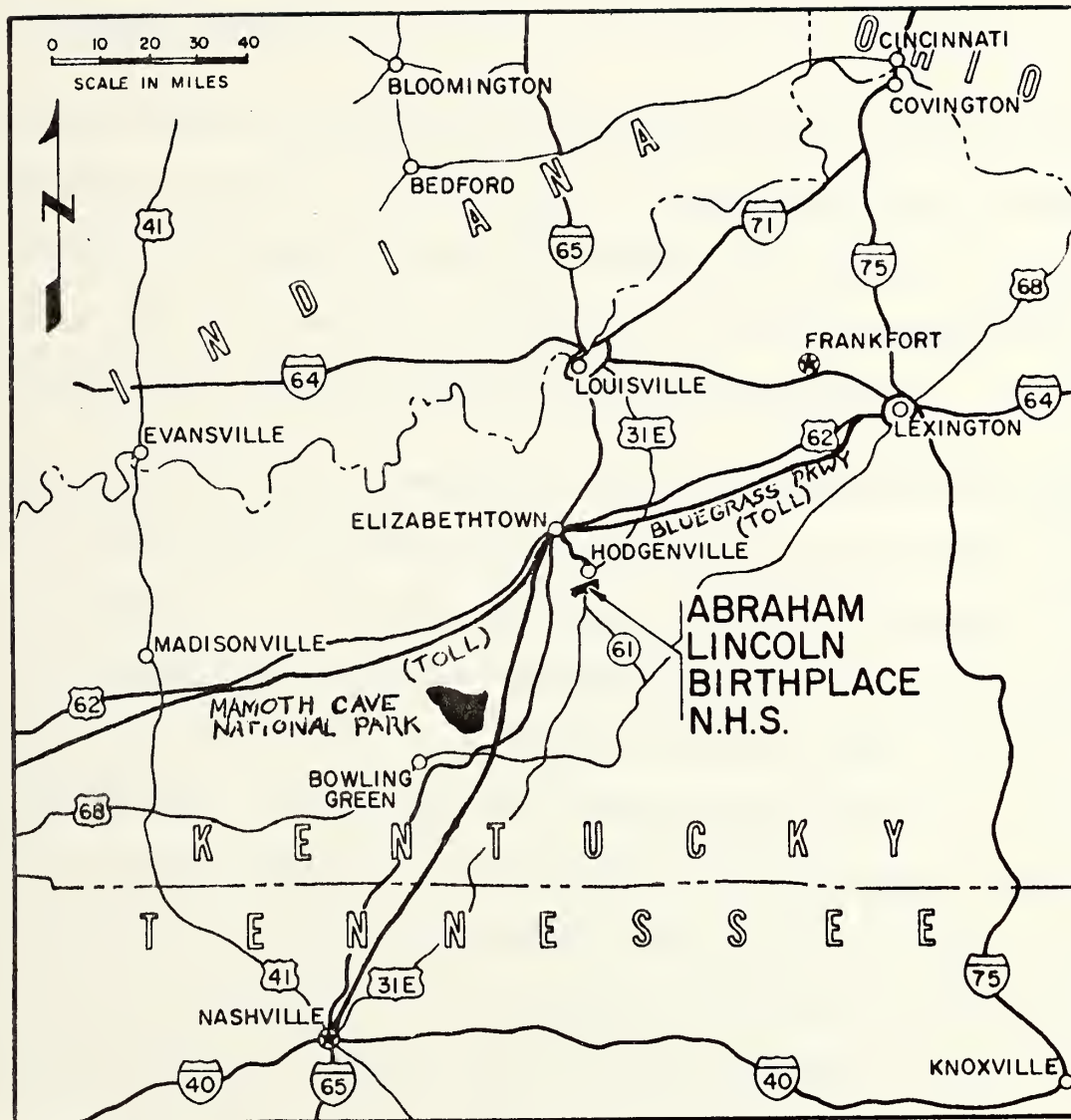
10/8/76
October 8, 1976

WASO
Policy Review: William J. Briggie
Associate Director
Park System Management

9/21/76
Date

Final Approval: Regional Director
Southeast Region

Date



LOCATION MAP

STATEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site

I. PURPOSE OF THE PARK

The basic purpose of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site is to commemorate the birth and early life of Abraham Lincoln and to present the story of his family background and frontier environment in a manner which relates these facts to his service to his country as President of the United States during the crucial years of the Civil War.

On July 17, 1916 an Act of Congress (39 Stat. 385) authorized acceptance by the United States of a deed of gift from the Lincoln Farm Association which included ". . . . land near the town of Hodgenville, County of Larue, State of Kentucky, embracing the homestead of Abraham Lincoln and the log cabin in which he was born "The Act further stated "that the land therein described, together with the buildings and appurtenances thereon, shall be forever dedicated to the purposes of a National Park or Reservation, the United States of America agreeing to protect and preserve said lands, buildings, and appurtenances, and especially the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born and the Memorial Hall enclosing the same"

Basically, the area was established to preserve the traditional birthplace cabin and a portion of the original farm where the sixteenth President of the United States spent the first two and one-half years of his life. By virtue of being ". . . .dedicated to the purposes of a National Park or Reservation", the National Park Service is charged with promoting

the use and providing for the public enjoyment of the site in such a manner as to leave the area unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

II. SIGNIFICANCE OF PARK RESOURCES

Thomas and Nancy Lincoln settled on the 300 acre Sinking Spring Farm on the edge of the American Frontier in 1808. Two months later, February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born in a one-room log cabin near a spring and giant oak tree in the southeast corner of the property. Here the Lincolns lived and farmed two and one-half years before seeking better land a few miles away.

The park contains 116.5 acres of land including approximately 100 acres of the Sinking Spring Farm. The landscaped memorial grounds around the birthplace site have a shrine quality with tree bordered, open lawns stretching around the knoll where a Memorial Building stands. The land now abounds in bird and animal life which, together with abundant flora, makes this an area of unusual beauty as well as of historical interest. Although the area today bears little resemblance to the frontier farm settled by the Lincoln family, several important features still exist. The Sinking Spring, a large limestone spring near the cabin site, provided clear water and a convenient "cooler" for milk and butter for the Lincolns. Its cool, clear water tumbling perpetually into a hidden cavern was well

known by local travelers who drank and relaxed in the cool air surrounding it. So well known was the spring, it gave its name to the farm.

The Boundary Oak, a landmark before the Lincolns came to this area, is an original boundary marker for one corner of the farm. Estimated to be over 400 years old, the great white oak stands today as a living memorial to the greatness of the man who as a child played in its shade.

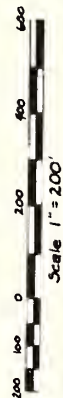
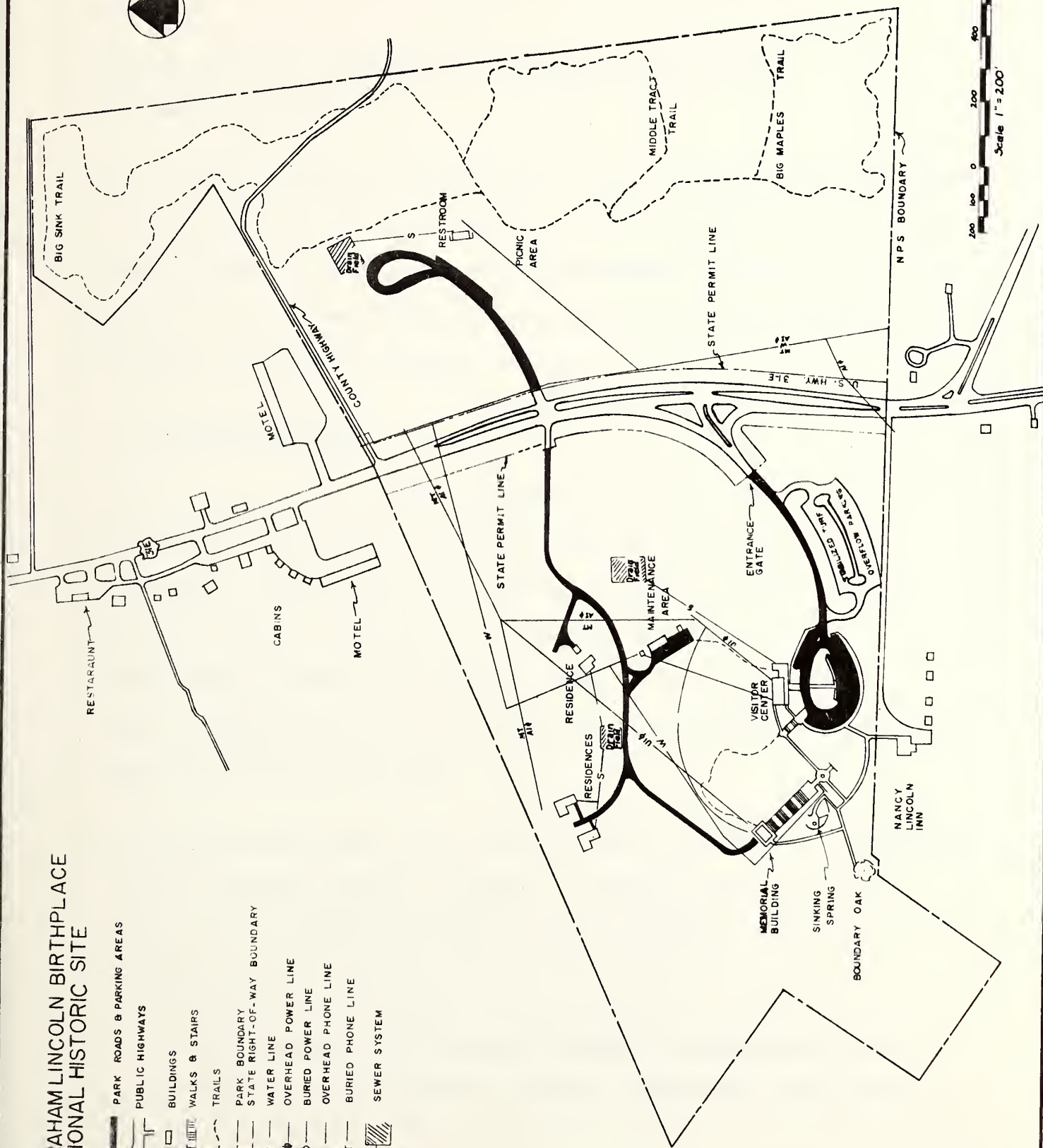
The Birthplace Cabin, a one-room house of logs and clay associated with Lincoln's birth by tradition, is preserved near its original site.

The history of this cabin prior to 1861 is uncertain. The cabin was removed from the farm in 1861 and re-erected at various locations before final reconstruction at the original location in 1911. Although the present cabin cannot be positively authenticated, it is a typical frontier home representing the period of Lincoln's birth. Whether or not this cabin is the original, the associations built around it since the 1800's give it the stature of the Birthplace Cabin.

The Memorial Building housing the cabin serves both as a protective shelter for the cabin and a memorial to Lincoln's birth and career. The imposing granite and marble structure and its massive columns also represents the professional, social, and cultural achievements Lincoln made. The building is representative of the classic architectural style of memorialization built in the United States around the turn of the

ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

- PARK ROADS & PARKING AREAS
- PUBLIC HIGHWAYS
- BUILDINGS
- WALKS & STAIRS
- TRAILS
- PARK BOUNDARY
- STATE RIGHT-OF-WAY BOUNDARY
- WATER LINE
- OVERHEAD POWER LINE
- BURIED POWER LINE
- OVERHEAD PHONE LINE
- BURIED PHONE LINE
- SEWER SYSTEM



century. Architect John Russel Pope, the noted neoclassicist, designed the building.

By no means of secondary standing as significant resources are the intangible associations woven around the fields where Lincoln was born. Born in this environment Lincoln carried with him throughout his career the impress of the associations, experiences, and influences, the hardships, isolation, and dangers of these early years.

III. LAND CLASSIFICATION

The park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Most of the park's 116.5 acres is contained within the original 300-acre Lincoln Farm. The entire park is managed to preserve cultural resources and their settings and therefore is classified as a historic zone. Lands supporting nonhistoric park development and managed to provide essential administrative and visitor services are classified in a development subzone within the historic zone.

The historic zone includes about 56 acres of open, mowed fields; interspersed with and bordered by regrowth woodlands. In addition, the development subzone contains the following facilities to accommodate visitor needs or facilitate park operations:

- A. Visitor Center - This structure consists of approximately 3,500 square feet of space containing a museum, auditorium, visitor contact

desk and administrative offices. The building also contains a basement area and restrooms attached by a breezeway.

B. Picnic Area - A 12-site picnic area is located across the bisecting Highway 31E from the main, historic interest features of the park. Individual sites consist of a table, fire grate, bench, cement slab and trash container. In addition, there is a comfort station located to serve the picnic area. In contrast to the primary historic section on the west side of Highway 31E, mowed fields adjacent to the picnic area are used by picnickers for playing softball, horseshoes and similar casual recreation activities.

C. Maintenance Building & Residences - Three employee residences, and a utility area consisting of a single unit shop/garage/office and two small outbuildings comprise the park support elements of this subzone. All the structures combined contain a square footage area of approximately 6,500 square feet. These buildings are located on the north side of the historic zone and are screened from normal visitor use areas.

D. Trails and Walks - The Memorial Building, Sinking Spring, Boundary Oak, and Visitor Center are connected by approximately 1,900 feet of stone sidewalk. The eastern boundary area adjacent to the picnic area is intertwined with a trail system of approximately two miles. This

latter system serves primarily as an environmental study and natural history feature.

E. Roads and Parking Area - Asphalt paved roads exit from Highway 31E which bisects the park and lead to the Visitor Center and key historic section, the picnic area, and the shop and residences. The Visitor Center and picnic area roads terminate in parking areas with a combined total capacity of approximately 90 cars. In addition, a gravel surfaced area is provided for trailer and overflow parking at a point adjacent to the visitor center parking lot. Total length of paved surfaces is approximately one and one-tenth of a mile. In addition, a gravel surfaced road of two-tenths of a mile provides access to the back of the Memorial Building.

IV. INFLUENCES ON MANAGEMENT

A. Legislative and Administrative Constraints - The majority of legislative and administrative constraints which apply to Abraham Lincoln Birthplace are contained in the basic enabling legislation plus a couple of legislative additions. Several restrictions specified in the original deed became binding when they were included in the Congressional Act of Acceptance dated July 17, 1916 (39 Stat. 385). Basically, this Act guaranteed that the land, the buildings, and the appurtenances would be forever dedicated to the purposes of a National Park with full federal protection and

preservation. Special mention was given to the traditional cabin and the memorial building in regard to permanent security from spoliation, destruction and further disintegration. The Official Act of Acceptance also guaranteed that fees or public admission charges would never be associated with the park.

Additional legislation was passed on February 11, 1929, (45 Stat. 1162) which expanded the responsibilities for improvement and preservation of the land and buildings. It authorized and directed improvement of existing roadways, walks and buildings plus landscape planting and construction of additional improvements as judged necessary in maintaining the park features and providing for appropriate use and enjoyment by the public.

An additional influencing factor exists in the form of a \$50,000 endowment fund which was accepted by the United States of America from the Lincoln Farm Association as a part of the July 17, 1916, Acceptance Act which had been invested in certain stocks, bonds and securities held and owned by the Lincoln Farm Association, and identified and described in assignment and transfer records. This fund was accepted with the agreement that all resultant monies would be used to protect, preserve and maintain the land, buildings, and appurtenances, and especially the historic log cabin and the stone memorial building for all time.

The endowment fund was put to use in fiscal year 1971 when \$17,000 was programmed for the purchase of audiovisual equipment and film production. This was done in conjunction with a major visitor center alteration program. This has been the only use for the fund to date as general operating funds have been used whenever possible with the endowment being held in reserve.

There is little in the way of any specific state or local legislation which bears directly upon the management of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace other than the fact that the area is under proprietary jurisdiction. In view of this, local court systems have processed a few park violations which otherwise would have gone through the federal judicial system. The number of these cases has been very low but the results have been quite satisfactory due to fine local support. In at least one instance, this has resulted in stiffer penalties and better local coverage than federal legal channels could have produced.

B. Regional Influences - The location of the time zone change creates a minor operational problem. The dividing line between Eastern and Central Time Zones is only 8 to 10 miles west of the park. Many visitors approaching from Mammoth Cave and other Central Time Zone locations become upset when they arrive to find the park closed as a result of the time change. This is generally not a problem

during the period of extended hours of summer operation. However, it creates a degree of visitor irritation during periods of heavy spring and fall visitation in particular. Local assistance is available at present for fire control, but it is currently on an informal basis. Two volunteer fire departments are located with a reasonable responding distance. Hodgenville and Buffalo, Kentucky, both have fire stations within approximately four miles of the park. A special use agreement provides a designated right-of-way to the Kentucky State Highway Department for Highway 31E which splits the park. This involves four tenths of a mile of divided highway running from the north to the south boundary of the park plus an access spur which leads to the park entrance gate. Right-of-way width is 150 feet, but engineering is dated and this has resulted in a degree of driver confusion as well as creating a hazardous situation for vehicles leaving the park via the service road exit.

Long-range development plans for the Larue County area include things such as two small flood control dams (one of which is under construction) a 90 to 100 acre recreational lake development, and a possible interstate highway which would connect with existing major routes at Elizabethtown and go south past Hodgenville to the Tennessee line. In addition, the Chamber of Commerce would like to entice small industries, lodging, facilities with conference space and similar business into the area.

Indications are that the county may very well develop in such a way that it might encourage a greater draw for recreational visitation with a resultant increase at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace. However, if this does become so the development will probably be a fairly gradual process.

Several new tourist and recreation oriented businesses have developed on Highway 31E immediately north of the birthplace in recent years. Existing developments near the park include two motels, a souvenir and antique store, a restaurant, a gas station and a country music hall. These businesses create little or no problem for the park at this time but they may indicate a trend toward more commercialism around the park. The majority of the park boundary is presently joined by farm lands which are used for crops or grazing. Future expansion within the adjacent community of Hodgenville, Kentucky, could change some of this pattern, but it is unlikely that this would occur in the immediate future.

The Nancy Lincoln Inn, a private development on the southern park boundary, represents the greatest potential for an intrusion upon the settling and atmosphere of the park. This particular business currently consists of souvenir and snack trade. It is readily visible

from the visitor center parking lot and the basin area below the memorial building. Lincoln Inn customers gain access directly from the park via a connecting walkway and there is a good deal of confusion on the part of many visitors as to the official status of the Inn. Some actually confuse it with the Birthplace Cabin, but a more common mistake is to assume that it is an official National Park Service facility. This, of course, is of particular concern in the event of customer dissatisfaction.

The Inn has been under the control of one family throughout much of the park's history and this will probably continue to be the case in the future. Cooperation between the park and the Nancy Lincoln Inn has generally been good to date. However, a change of ownership or general operating procedure could alter this quite drastically.

The surrounding developments pose few environmental problems at present with one possible exception. An existing system of storm drains which serves the key historic portion of the park has proven inadequate on several occasions to prevent flooding of the Boundary Oak, the Sinking Spring and the low ground in front of the Memorial Building.

This problem stems basically from a natural drainage system leading into a sink type of topography. It is further complicated by overflow which comes from an adjacent farm pond and plowed fields plus poor placement of drain openings in the park. This combination of circumstances has resulted in serious flooding conditions at the base of the Boundary Oak in particular. Cost and construction efforts necessary to eliminate all flooding would be prohibitive and the deteriorated state of the Boundary Oak would tend to rule out major revisions for that location.

Local groups and organizations have normally displayed a great deal of pride in Abraham Lincoln Birthplace and have generally been supportive in their relationships with the park. Prominent among these organizations are the Ladies Lincoln League, Larue County Historical Society, Lincoln Train Economic Development District, Hodgenville Rotary and Lions Clubs, Larue County Young Women's Club and Hodgenville Women's Club.

Many of these groups annually become involved in sponsoring the Lincoln Days' celebration which is held in February. This event normally involves both the local community and the park. A variety of theme-oriented activities are held locally and more formal ceremonies are

conducted within the park. Continuation of this program is one of considerable benefit in maintaining good community relations and local pride in the park and its significance. Throughout the history of the park there have been heated controversies as to the authenticity of the "traditional" Birthplace Cabin. Much debate has occurred over this issue in previous years with frequent attention from the news media. Although this controversy has generally been settled by now, it deserves mention here. Public criticism as to the possible misrepresentation of the enshrined Lincoln Cabin has done much to influence present policies of interpreting the area. The location of the original Lincoln Farm has been well documented, but the lack of corroborating evidence has made it impossible to fully authenticate the origin of the existing cabin.

Similar controversies have arisen as to the actual birthplace of Abraham Lincoln with birthplace claims coming from as far away as Tennessee and North Carolina. The most recent among these claims was advanced by Harry Magers who developed the theory that Lincoln was born on the Mill Creek Farm some six miles north of Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Mr. Magers developed his theory in a book which was copyrighted in 1971.

These differing theories have generally developed as the result of broad conclusions drawn from fragmented material, but they do point up the need for great care in the presentation of any material of an interpretive nature. Carelessness in this regard could easily result in the surfacing of new counterclaims with possible negative connotations toward existing management practices.

C. Within-Park Influences - There are a number of factors within the park which have a significant influence upon management decisions.

Among these factors are the following:

1. Boundary Oak - A major concern of recent years has been the steady decline of the Boundary Oak. That decline has culminated in the apparent death of the tree in July 1976 at which time the last of its foliage withered and turned brown. The decline of this historic tree, believed to be over 400 years old, can be traced to a number of causes.

Age alone could have reduced its vigor but, additionally, the tree has suffered from flooding, root asphyxiation due to alluvial clay deposits, storm damage, lightning strike, competition from younger and more vigorous trees, and finally from bark beetles

which attacked the cambium layer of the weakened tree. These factors resulted in serious stunting of leaf growth in recent years with a partial dieback in 1975 and a total dieback in 1976.

Extensive examination and treatment by various National Park Service and private specialists have been accomplished during the past decade. Actions taken included extensive pruning and removal of several large limbs, filling a hollow with cement, cabling and bracing of limbs, feeding, and spraying for insect pests.

On September 2, 1976, the Boundary Oak was trimmed back to sound wood. All lateral growth of small limbs was removed, leaving only large limbs pruned back to a skeletal form. Twigs which had produced leaves in the spring were found to be brittle and apparently devoid of life. The extensive pruning was considered necessary to prevent possible limb hazards for visitors and the chance of splitting and more serious storm damage. It was determined that the outer foot or so of the trunk contained sound wood, but a hollow or rotten center was suspected.

Specialists with knowledge of the tree stated that there was a remote chance that the tree could develop sprouts in the spring

as a result of the pruning. However, this was considered highly unlikely. It was estimated that the trunk could remain standing in its present form for several years without further care, although it was impossible to make an exact determination.

2. Sinking Spring - A great deal of concern has also been generated over safety and general structural erosion at the Sinking Spring. The immediate concern is toward safety. The open pit through which the spring drains is situated several feet beyond the base of a series of stone steps. Visitors have unrestricted access to the pit which is approximately six feet in diameter and nine feet deep. There has long been the potential for a serious accident resulting from a fall into the pit.

Heavy summer use within the restricted area of the Sinking Spring has caused smoothing and erosion of the limestone rock used in constructing the steps and viewing area around the Spring. This has resulted in further safety concerns as the walking surfaces now become very slick during periods of wet weather.

Landscaping of the Memorial Building has also shown something of a negative trend. Original landscape plans were apparently

well executed in keeping with this formal building. However, the passage of time has resulted in extensive growth of trees with resultant shading and competition to shrubs. As a result, some shrubs that were included in the original plan are now gone and some imbalance has resulted.

3. Climatic Conditions - Climate in and around the park tends to be moist and humid with generally moderate temperatures. Visitation during peak periods of use shows only moderate fluctuations during the more adverse weather periods. Normal maintenance operations must frequently be adjusted to fit mowing schedules between rainy periods.

The threat of tornadoes exists through spring and summer. The park depends on local radio warnings to keep up with tornado bulletins during threatening periods. The basements of the visitor center and the Memorial Building have spaces which would provide tornado shelter. However, the Memorial Building basement is secured by a metal door which is too heavy for many of the park employees to open.

Heavy spring and summer rains occasionally create problems by flooding the basin in front of the Memorial Building. This

problem was also mentioned under regional influences. The entire basin must drain out of the Sinking Spring outlet and occasionally runoff is so great that walks and the lower steps of the Memorial Building have been flooded. The primary source of water has been via a drainage running from private lands into the park by way of the Boundary Oak. A farm pond on the adjacent private land helps to control flooding but the dam is not always adequate to control the runoff involved. This particular drainage is believed to be a key factor in the decline of the Boundary Oak.

The War Department constructed an extensive system of culvert drains during their administration but they are not adequate under all conditions. Special attention is necessary to keep the drains open and in a workable condition. Weak spots in the system sometimes break through to the surface during particularly heavy rains.

Rains capable of causing severe flooding occur only once in three to five years. However, it is not uncommon for minor problems to occur once or twice a year. Damage is normally not serious,

but flooding could affect any future development at the Boundary Oak or Sinking Spring.

4. Highway and Utility Corridors - As mentioned under regional influences, Highway 31E splits the park dividing the primary historic features of the area from the picnic area and environmental study area section. The right-of-way is well landscaped and does not present a serious visual intrusion on key features. However, engineering and design of access lanes have resulted in a confusing and somewhat hazardous traffic situation.

Noise pollution is also a factor at times due to trucks and loud mufflers which can be heard on the grounds surrounding the key features. Although this goes unnoticed most of the time, it can be annoying during special tours or similar interpretive activities.

A county road bisects the northeast corner of the park. The road is narrow and receives light use at generally reduced speeds. However, the bordering park lands are part of an environmental study area and a loop trail crosses the road twice. Curves in the road and bordering tree growth present a potentially hazardous situation for trail users.

Kentucky Utilities Company has right-of-way authorization for two above-ground power lines. One of these parallels Highway 31E from the north to the south boundary of the park. This line crosses open field for most of that distance and results in a negative visual impact.

The other line branches off the one mentioned above and runs across an open field into a section of woods. This line supplies park residences, administrative buildings and the Memorial Building. Sections extending to buildings in the visitor use area are placed underground. This feeder line does not create as serious a visual intrusion due to screening, but it requires right-of-way clearing which has an adverse effect on the woods involved.

A telephone line serving the residences and administrative areas of the park presents problems similar to the power line discussed above. The only distinction would be a lesser requirement for right-of-way clearance in wooded sections.

V. GENERAL PARK FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

Park facilities and programs are generally adequate to meet existing needs, however, weaknesses exist as follows:

A. Interpretation - The death of the Boundary Oak has resulted in discrepancies in existing programs. This includes an audio program, a cast aluminum sign, and the movie shown in the visitor center.

The technical quality of the interpretive film has also come under criticism on a limited basis, but there appears to be some justification for the comments received. Narration and historic facts are accurate and well done except for the current status of the Boundary Oak. However, the film tends to appear jerky and somewhat difficult to watch due to filming techniques used. The viewing quality suffers considerably as a result of these techniques. Due to the memorial or shrine-like development of the park, it is difficult to visualize the historic scene of the Thomas Lincoln Farm. A diorama in the visitor center indicates what the farm once looked like, but there is a lack of information outside to explain what the original bounds of the farm were or what the conditions were like in the early 1800's.

B. Storage Space - Storage space, although present, is of poor quality. The visitor center was constructed with a full basement space under it. However, only the furnace room and one other room were properly finished. The remaining spaces have gravel floors and three by three foot entry holes instead of doors. These voids receive limited storage use due to their condition and poor access. Association sales items must currently be stored in the same room with miscellaneous supplies and materials. There presently is no way of properly securing the sales items. Certain historical records have also suffered due to damp storage conditions in the existing area, plus a lack of space upstairs. Use of a dehumidifier is difficult under existing space arrangements.

There is no stairway access connecting the basement storage space with the upstairs. It is now necessary to transport sales and other items to the main floor of the visitor center through an outside door at the rear of the building. This becomes a particular problem during periods of bad weather.

Existing voids could provide quality storage space as well as providing a suitable space for group use for environmental study purposes.

In addition there is a need for an employee lounge and restroom facilities within the administration headquarters. Employees presently must use the public restroom which is near the visitor center. They also have no lunch or work break area other than the limited office space which now exists. Due to staggered work schedules of the visitor center and Memorial Building, employee lunch and break periods normally overlap with other employees active work schedules. This has resulted in employee dissatisfaction as well as a reduction in office efficiency during the periods in question.

C. Handicapped Facilities - The only handicapped facilities currently in the park area are a wooden wheel chair ramp at the rear of the Memorial Building and handrails in two stalls of the picnic area restrooms. The ramp for the Memorial Building is available via a service road leading to the rear of the building. This access is used by both those restricted to wheel chairs and others who are unable to negotiate the front steps. The restroom handrails, although they may help, do not meet standards established for such installations.

There is no way for people in wheel chairs to enter the visitor center or visitor center restrooms without assistance at the

present time. Handicapped access to the basin area below the Memorial Building is also difficult due to the sloping terrain. All access to that area is by stairway except for one stone walkway. The walkway is sometimes used for wheel chair access but the rough surface makes such use difficult.

D. Sewage Disposal - Three sewage disposal units serve the park. One serves the visitor center, one serves three residences, and one serves the picnic area. Sewage is drained into septic tanks and the liquid is pumped or gravity-fed into drain fields.

The drain field for the visitor center requires close monitoring to ensure it does not discharge into surface water. So far, it has not created any serious problem. The system serving the picnic area is the newest and it has been free of any problems to date.

The drain field for the residences is old and has required attention on several occasions. The tiles have apparently become partially root bound and it is suspected that they are only partly functional. The field location is surrounded by trees and this has probably created part of the clogging problem. The trees have also kept the

area from receiving adequate sunshine for effective evaporation. Failure of the field could occur at any time.

E. Fencing - The Highway 31E right-of-way and the visible sections of boundary in the heavy use sections of the park are presently delineated by the use of old chestnut rail fences. These fences provide an attractive means of separating areas and controlling access. They also have a strong sentimental tie to Lincoln era history although they are not being used in a strictly historic sense. The present reserve supply of rails is sufficient to last for several years, but additional rails are becoming more and more difficult to purchase. It is only a matter of time until limited supplies and cost will make it impractical to obtain rails of this type now used.

F. Access and Circulation - Visitor services facilities have generally proven adequate to provide all visitors with an acceptable park experience. Visitor center parking space is often nearly filled (with visitors parking on the grass) for brief periods during peak summer and holiday use periods.

However, the turnover rate is normally rapid enough to keep up with incoming needs.

Visitor circulation is somewhat controlled by the nature of the key interest features within the park. The visitor center, the Memorial Building and Cabin, and the Sinking Spring are all confined spaces and serve as limiting factors. However, the available space for parking currently controls the visitor flow in such a way that the key features are normally not overloaded.

The normal visitor stay lasts from 45 minutes to an hour at the present time. Any major revision of interpretive programs which would lengthen the average stay might also slow the visitor turnover rate. This, in turn, could create congestion problems, most of which would concern parking space.

G. Land Base - The existing land base contains about a third of the original 300 acre Lincoln Farm. This influences the overall interpretive effort but does not adversely affect the presentation of the key features emphasized in the original park legislation.

The adjoining land containing the Nancy Lincoln Inn has a visual impact on the key historic features. This was discussed under

earlier regional influences. Changes in ownership or operational procedures of that property could result in a strong adverse effect on the park.

Although not directly influencing the basic historic features of the park, commercial development on the north boundary is readily visible from the picnic area and portions of the environmental study area. Sufficient open field space is available to allow vegetative screening in that area. Vista control on the north boundary would create a more desirable setting for picnickers and other users of the area.

Except for one 48-acre tract, adjoining portions of the original Lincoln Farm are now commercial property. That tract is still in pastureland, but ownership is expected to change in the near future. Access to the property is limited, but development might occur in the future. If so, it would undoubtedly have a direct impact on the park, although existing tree growth effectively screens that section from the major use sections.

H. Recreational and Environmental Education Uses - The park maintains a picnic area consisting of 12 tables, a comfort station, and a parking area. The area is open from early spring through

late fall from 8:00 a.m. to dark. Weekday use is light, consisting of brief lunch stops by park visitors. Weekend use is very heavy through the warmer months due to the area's popularity for family reunions. This weekend use frequently exceeds available facility space many times over. Large, open fields are maintained in the area and recreational activities such as softball, horseshoes, volleyball, etc., are permitted.

Highway 31E, plus trees and hilly terrain, separates the picnic area from key features. Use of this area is not detectable from the main historic section. Little lasting impact has resulted from past use. Some turf wear occurs from games and extensive overflow parking on weekends, but off-season recovery has normally erased any signs of this.

The picnic area and adjoining woodlands are designated as an environmental study area. Trails in the area receive regular use by individuals and small groups, but formal use for environmental education purposes has been light. School contacts are now being developed in an attempt to realize more of the area's potential.

Features within the area are well suited to use by school groups for a variety of environmental education projects. However, the

park lacks a protected area where such groups could meet and work in the event of foul weather. A picnic pavilion would be useful in this respect for school groups and picnickers alike. There is little question that such a structure would be useful, but it would also be likely to increase weekend use beyond the overflow levels which now exist.

I. Vandalism - Very little damage occurs within the park from vandalism. Most incidents have involved spinning cars around on the grass at the picnic area or breaking a lock on an entrance gate. These incidents normally occurred after hours and on a very sporadic basis. A high community pride in Abraham Lincoln Birthplace, plus a fairly conservative rural atmosphere, seem to be prime reasons for the low rate of vandalism.

J. Historic Artifacts - A small collection of historic artifacts is maintained within the park. These artifacts consist of things which specifically belonged to the Lincoln family, original items of the historic period, and documents and objects which relate to the early life of Abraham Lincoln or the development of the park.

The most valuable items, other than the cabin itself, is the Lincoln family Bible which is prominently displayed in a specially designed

case. The Bible has become extremely fragile over the years. It requires careful monitoring to detect any changes in appearance. Handling must be minimal and limited to procedures recommended by curatorial specialists.

A wrought iron draw-knife, believed to have been Thomas Lincoln's, is on display with other representative tools and utensils. Detailed authentication data is not available at the park level although indications exist that more better records may exist elsewhere. This draw-knife, if really authentic, is one of the more valuable items in the park collection yet it is not identified as such and its possible significance in construction of the Birthplace Cabin is totally overlooked.

VI. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Management objectives for Abraham Lincoln Birthplace are detailed on the following pages under the headings listed below.

- A. Cultural Resource Preservation
- B. Natural Resource Preservation
- C. Safety
- D. Development
- E. Lands
- F. Operations
- G. Acquisition of Information
- H. Cooperative Activities

A. Cultural Resource Preservation

1. To ensure permanent preservation of irreplaceable cultural resources.
 - a. To anticipate potential problems which could affect the Memorial Building and the traditional Birthplace Cabin through careful monitoring and analysis of potential problems.
 - b. To preserve the Memorial Building and traditional Birthplace Cabin through the consistent application of carefully selected, modern techniques.
 - c. To preserve the Lincoln Bible through application of recommended procedures or by technical laboratory procedures if necessary.
2. To present historic artifacts which bear direct ties to the Lincoln family in a manner which will best ensure their safety and relate their true historic significance.

B. Natural Resource Preservation

1. To minimize the effects of sporadic flooding on key features within the primary historic section of the park through cooperative control efforts plus regular maintenance of park drain systems.
2. To preserve appropriate remains of the Boundary Oak in a manner which will provide maximum interpretive potential.
3. To develop and maintain the Sinking Spring in a manner which will best meet historic and aesthetic requirements while providing for sound visitor safety and effective traffic flow.
4. To landscape the Memorial Building grounds in a manner befitting the building architecture while maintaining compatibility with nearby mature trees.

C. Safety

1. To ensure safe conditions for all people who visit the park through establishment of appropriate safeguards.
 - a. To minimize the potential for accidents resulting from slick, uneven or unstable surfaces or from unprotected drop-offs by installing railings or replacement of defective sections.
 - b. To create safe road conditions through enlistment of cooperation and assistance from state and county highway officials.
2. To maintain clear, easily implemented procedures for coping with tornadoes and structural fires in a way which will safeguard human life and minimize property loss.

D. Development

1. To maintain vistas which present the least possible intrusion on park aesthetics by eliminating the visual impacts of above ground utility lines.
2. To achieve the maximum usable space in administrative structures for purposes of storage and other administrative needs by revisions of existing voids.
3. To provide handicapped visitors with a reasonable means of access to park features and facilities.
4. To maintain sewage disposal facilities which will meet applicable state and federal standards without adversely affecting park aesthetics.
5. To preserve the present aesthetics and nostalgia created by the use of rail fences to control access and distinguish park boundaries in visitor use sections.

E. Lands

To minimize through acquisition or other means, those outside elements which may intrude upon the key historical resources of the park and/or the quality of the visitor experience.

1. To secure vistas from the Memorial Building, Sinking Springs, and Boundary Oak which are free of encroachment that might adversely influence aesthetics and reduce the park's historic impact.
2. To create or maintain vistas for all other sections which will minimize the impacts of outside developments and provide visitors with a high quality park experience.

F. Operations

1. To promote public understanding and appreciation of the sixteenth President of the United States through presentation of the elements which surrounded his birth and early childhood.
 - a. To exhibit the Boundary Oak remains in such a manner that the historical significance of the tree is clearly understood by park visitors.
 - b. To delineate those features which have the most direct relationship to the historical events of the park in such a manner that they will be prominently featured.
 - c. To ensure that all programs meet the highest standards of accuracy and quality by continual monitoring and by updating as changes occur.
2. To prevent congestion and maintain high quality visitor experiences by carefully balancing visitor services programs against limitations on space.

G. Acquisition of Information

1. To develop the most thorough documentation possible on the authenticity and original character of various historic features and artifacts within the park.
2. To determine the hydrologic characteristics of the Sinking Spring and its environs and apply that knowledge in future maintenance of the spring.

H. Cooperative Activities

1. To maintain sound, working associations with individuals, boards, commissions, and governmental entities which share an interest in Abraham Lincoln Birthplace and its surroundings in order to achieve the park's purpose through harmonious integration of efforts.
 - a. To develop and maintain an attitude of cooperation and understanding with highway department and utility company officials in order to blend their services into the park environment with a minimum of aesthetic or safety disturbance.
 - b. To ensure prompt, capable fire control assistance by maintaining a formal agreement with local volunteer fire departments.
 - c. To ensure a continuance of community support and pride for Abraham Lincoln Birthplace through continued involvement in local events such as Lincoln Days, involvement in

environmental education, provisions for picnicking, and distribution of current information on park activities.

- d. To minimize excessive precipitation runoff through development of cooperative assistance of land owners and soil conservation officials.
-
- 2. To promote an open exchange of information between Abraham Lincoln Birthplace and other areas and organizations within the state which are concerned with the history of Abraham Lincoln and his family ties in Kentucky to ensure continuity and historic integrity in conveying the information to the public.

APPENDIX 39 Stat. 385

64th CONGRESS
1st Session

A BILL to accept a deed of gift or conveyance from the Lincoln Farm Association, a corporation, to the United States of America, of land near the town of Hodgenville, county of Larue, State of Kentucky, embracing the homestead of Abraham Lincoln and the log cabin in which he was born, together with the memorial hall inclosing the same; and further, to accept an assignment or transfer of an endowment fund of \$50,000 in relation thereto.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the United States of America hereby accepts title to the lands mentioned in the deed of gift or conveyance now in possession of the Secretary of War, together with all the buildings and appurtenances thereon, especially the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born and the memorial hall inclosing the same, which deed or conveyance was executed on the 19th day of June, nineteen hundred and sixteen, by the Lincoln Farm Association, a corporation, to the United States of America, describing certain lands situated near the town of Hodgenville, county of Larue, State of Kentucky, which lands are more particularly identified in said deed of conveyance. The title to such lands, buildings, and appurtenances is accepted upon the terms and conditions stated in said deed or conveyance, namely: That the land therein described, together with the buildings and appurtenances thereon, shall be forever dedicated to the purposes of a national park or reservation, the United States of America agreeing to protect and preserve the said lands, buildings, and appurtenances, and especially the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born and the memorial hall inclosing the same, from spoliation, destruction, and further disintegration, to the end that they may be preserved for all time, so far as may be; and further agreeing that there shall never be any charge or fee made to or asked from the public for admission to the said park or reservation.

SEC. 2. That the United States of America hereby also accepts title to the endowment fund of \$50,000 mentioned in the assignment and transfer, now in the possession of the President of the United States of America, which assignment and transfer was executed on the 19th day of June, nineteen hundred and sixteen, by the Lincoln Farm Association, a corporation, to the United States of America, transferring and turning over all its right, title, and interest in and to said endowment fund, heretofore invested in certain stocks, bonds and securities held and owned by the Lincoln Farm Association, and more particularly identified and described in said assignment and transfer. The title to said endowment fund is accepted upon

70TH CONGRESS

2nd Session

A BILL To provide for the improvement and preservation of the land and buildings of the Abraham National Park or Reservation.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of REpresentatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, That for the purpose of protecting from disintegration and of improving, beautifying, and preserving the Abraham Lincoln National Park or Reservation established under the Act entitled "An Act to accept a deed or gift of conveyance from the Lincoln Farm Association, a corporation, to the United States of America, of land near the town of Hodgenville, county of Larue, State of Kentucky, embracing the homestead of Abraham Lincoln and the log cabin in which he was born, together with the Memorial Hall inclosing the same; and further to accept an assignment or transfer of an endowment fund of \$50,000 in relation thereto," approved July 17, 1916 (United States Code, Title 16, sections 211-214), the Secretary of War is authorized and directed to provide for (1) the improvement of such existing roadways, walks, and buildings in such park or reservation; and (2) the planting of such trees, plants, and schubbery; the construction of such additional roadways, walks and buildings, and of such fences, parking spaces, drainage structures, culverts and bridges; and the making of such other improvements, as in his judgment may be becessary for the preservation, beautification, and protection from disintegration of such park or reservation, including the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born and the memorial hall inclosing the same, which may serve to render such park or reservation convenient for the appropriate use and enjoyment by the public.

SEC. 2. There is authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$100,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary, to carry out the provisions of section 1 of this Act; and authorization is also hereby given for such appropriations as may, in the future, be deemed necessary for the proper protection, preservation, care, maintenance, and operation of the said national park or reservation, including the salaries and compensation of a superintendent and other needed employees.

February 11, 1929

the terms and conditions stated in said assignment and transfer, namely, that the United States of America shall forever keep the said tract of land described in said deed, together with the buildings and appurtenances thereunto belonging, dedicated to the purpose of a national park or reservation; and further, shall forever protect, preserve and maintain said land, buildings, and appurtenances, and especially the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born and the memorial hall inclosing the same, from spoliation, destruction, and further disintegration, to the end that they may be preserved for all time, as far as may be, as a national park or reservation.

SEC.3. That the President of the United States of America and the Secretary of War are hereby authorized to execute, in the name of the United States of America, such instrument or instruments as may be or may become necessary to comply with or carry out the terms and conditions of such gift or gifts and to secure the full benefit therefrom.

SEC . 4 That upon passage of this act and the vesting of the title to the property accepted thereunder in the United States it shall be under the control of the Secretary of War and administered under such regulations, not inconsistent with the law, as he may from time to time prescribe.

July 17, 1916

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace

National Historic Site
Hodgenville, Kentucky

"I was born on February 12, 1809, in the then Hardin County, Kentucky, at a point within the now county of LaRue, a mile or a mile and a half from where Hodgen's Mill now is."

A. Lincoln

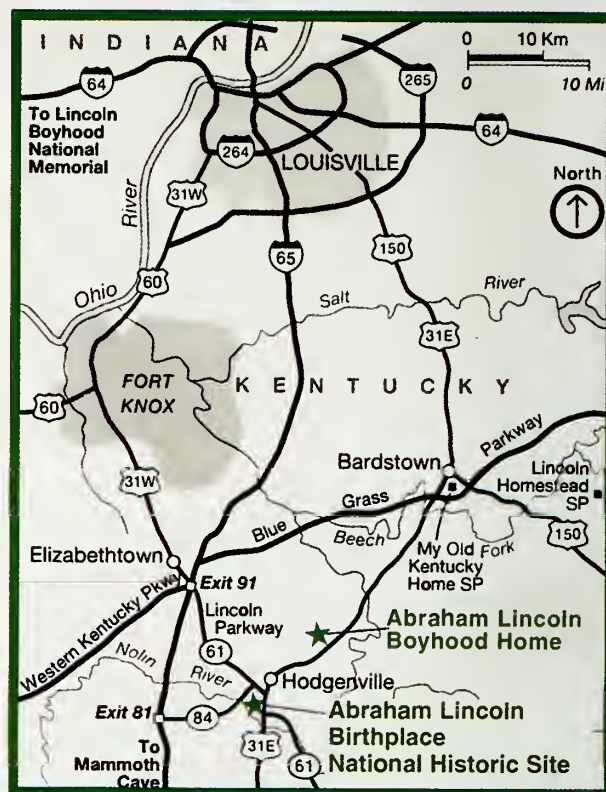


Photo Courtesy of W.L. McCoy

On December 12, 1808, Thomas Lincoln paid \$200.00 cash for 348 acres of rough land situated a short distance south of Hodgen's Mill, Kentucky. Identified locally as the Sinking Spring Farm, the property was best known for the cool waters of a large limestone spring which surfaced there. It was on a knoll above the spring that Thomas, his wife Nancy, and their first child, Sarah, settled into a one-room log cabin. On February 12, 1809, the walls of that crude cabin resounded to the cries of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln's newborn son, Abraham.

Two years later the Lincoln family moved ten miles north-east to the Knob Creek Farm. Lincoln later stated, "My earliest recollection is of the Knob Creek place." This beautiful valley located in the Knobs Region nurtured the fertile and ambitious mind of a growing boy.

**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**



VISITING THE PARK

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace

Located 3 miles south of Hodgenville, KY on U.S. 31E & KY 61. Stop at visitor center for directions to the Memorial Building, Sinking Spring, hiking trails, and picnic area. Film "Lincoln: The Kentucky Years" shown hourly in auditorium. Open daily except Thanksgiving Day, December 25 & January 1.

Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home

Located ten miles northeast of the Birthplace on U.S. 31E. The Lincoln family lived here five years, 1811-1816. Limited picnicking and interpretive services are available. This property was added to the park on November 6, 2001. Open daily.

For additional information contact:

Superintendent

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site

2995 Lincoln Farm Road

Hodgenville, KY 42748

(270)358-3137 or www.nps.gov/abli

Nearby Lincoln-related Attractions

The Lincoln Museum located on the Hodgenville town square, near the famous **Lincoln statue** by Adolph A. Weinmann. Life-like wax figures in historic settings enable visitors to follow the important events in the life of Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln art collection, film, exhibits. Open daily. AAA approved. (270)358-3163.

Kentucky State Parks

Lincoln Homestead State Park

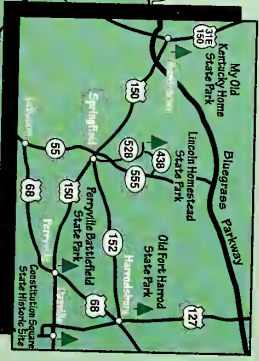
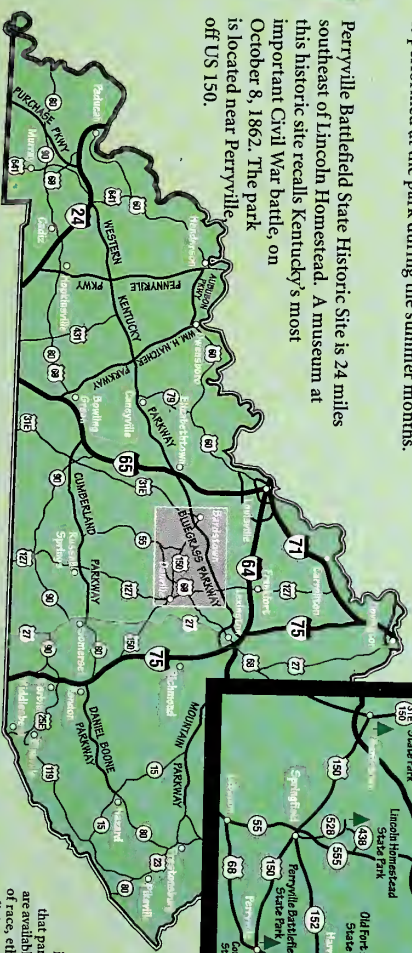


Kentucky
State Parks
Always in Season

Visit these nearby parks...

My Old Kentucky Home State Park, in Bardonia, is 22 miles northwest of Lincoln Homestead on US 31 E/150. Visit Federal Hill, the inspiration for Stephen Foster's song, "My Old Kentucky Home." The park also has a campground, and 18-hole golf course. "The Stephen Foster Story" outdoor drama is performed at the park during the summer months.

Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site is 24 miles southeast of Lincoln Homestead. A museum at this historic site recalls Kentucky's most important Civil War battle, on October 8, 1862. The park is located near Perryville off US 150.



Lincoln Homestead State Park
5079 Lincoln Park Road, Springfield KY 40069
Park Information & Golf Pro Shop: (606) 336-7461
The park is 5 miles north of Springfield. Take the Bluegrass Parkway to US 150 east or KY 555 south. From US 150 east, take KY 528 to KY 438. From KY 555 south, take KY 438 to the park.

The Kentucky Department of Parks is committed to ensuring that park benefits and programs are available to all persons regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, gender or disability.

Kentucky Department of Parks
500 Metro Street, Frankfort KY 40601-1974
(502) 564-2172 1-800-255-PARK
State Funds KRS 57.375 12/97





Lincoln Homestead State Park preserves the pioneer heritage of President Abraham

Lincoln's parents, Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. Within the park grounds are a reproduction of the cabin that was the boyhood home of Lincoln's father, and the actual house in which the President's mother lived during her courtship with Thomas Lincoln. Split rail fences and pioneer furniture made by Thomas Lincoln and his contemporaries complete the picture of life in the rugged Lincoln era. Adjoining this historic homestead is an 18-hole regulation golf course, offering park visitors a different set of challenges than those faced by the early pioneers!

PARK FEATURES & RECREATION FACILITIES

The Lincoln Cabin & Blacksmith Shop

The Lincoln, Hanks, and Berry families migrated to this area over Daniel Boone's Wilderness Road in the 1780s and 1790s. The Lincoln cabin is a replica that rests on the traditional site of the original log house in which the President's grandmother, Bersheba, raised her five children. Thomas Lincoln, father of the President, lived here until he was 25 years of age. According to tradition, Thomas learned his trade as a carpenter and cabinetmaker in a blacksmith shop similar to the shop replica located behind the homestead cabin. Thomas Lincoln probably learned his trade under the tutelage of Richard and Francis Berry, who were master craftsmen and relatives of Nancy Hanks. Several of the cabin furnishings, like the handsome corner cupboard, were made by Thomas Lincoln. *Open May 1 - September 30, \$.*

The Berry House

Nancy Hanks, mother of the President, lived in this original house while she was courted by Thomas Lincoln. It is thought that Thomas proposed to Nancy in the large living room before the immense fireplace. This distinctive frontier home, constructed of stout timbers with a full second floor and window glass, was moved from the Beechland section about a mile away. The home contains several elegant examples of pioneer furniture and a copy of the Lincoln marriage bond. *Open May 1 - September 30, \$.*

The Lincoln Homestead Golf Course

The 18-hole regulation course accents the gentle, rolling hills of this historic setting. The course features a pro shop with golf merchandise and equipment, rental clubs, driving carts, pull carts and a snack bar. *Open year-round, \$.*

The Mordecai Lincoln House

The home of Mordecai Lincoln, eldest son of Captain Abraham Lincoln and Bersheba, and the favorite uncle of President Lincoln, is located across from the golf course on its original site. Mordecai Lincoln was one of the leading citizens of Washington County. The two-story log cabin built by Mordecai Lincoln was encased and enlarged by the Federal-style frame building visible today between the years 1810-1815, by the home's second owner, Wilfred Hayden. *Exterior viewing only, available for rental, \$, kitchen & rest room facilities are adjacent to the historic home.*

Gift Shop

The gift shop, located in the cluster of historic cabins, features Kentucky handcrafts and souvenirs. *Open May 1 - September 30.*

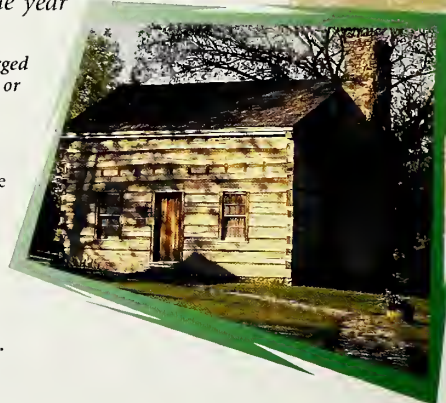
Picnic Shelter & Playground

A picnic shelter, tables, grills, rest rooms, playground and parking area are near the cabins. *Year-round, shelter available for rental, may be reserved up to one year in advance.*

\$ Indicates a fee is charged for museum admission or use of facilities.

The Lincoln Cabin, built on the original site Captain Abraham chose for a homestead in the year 1782.

Cover photos
The Berry House and
the 18-hole golf course.



DEPARTMENT OF
INTERIOR

DRAWER 11

BIRTH PLACE CABIN

RECORDED

